3
Yozakura Quartet
Suzuhito Yasuda

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Translated by Satsuki Yamashita
Adapted by Nunzio DeFilippis and Christina Weir
Lettered by North Market Street Graphics

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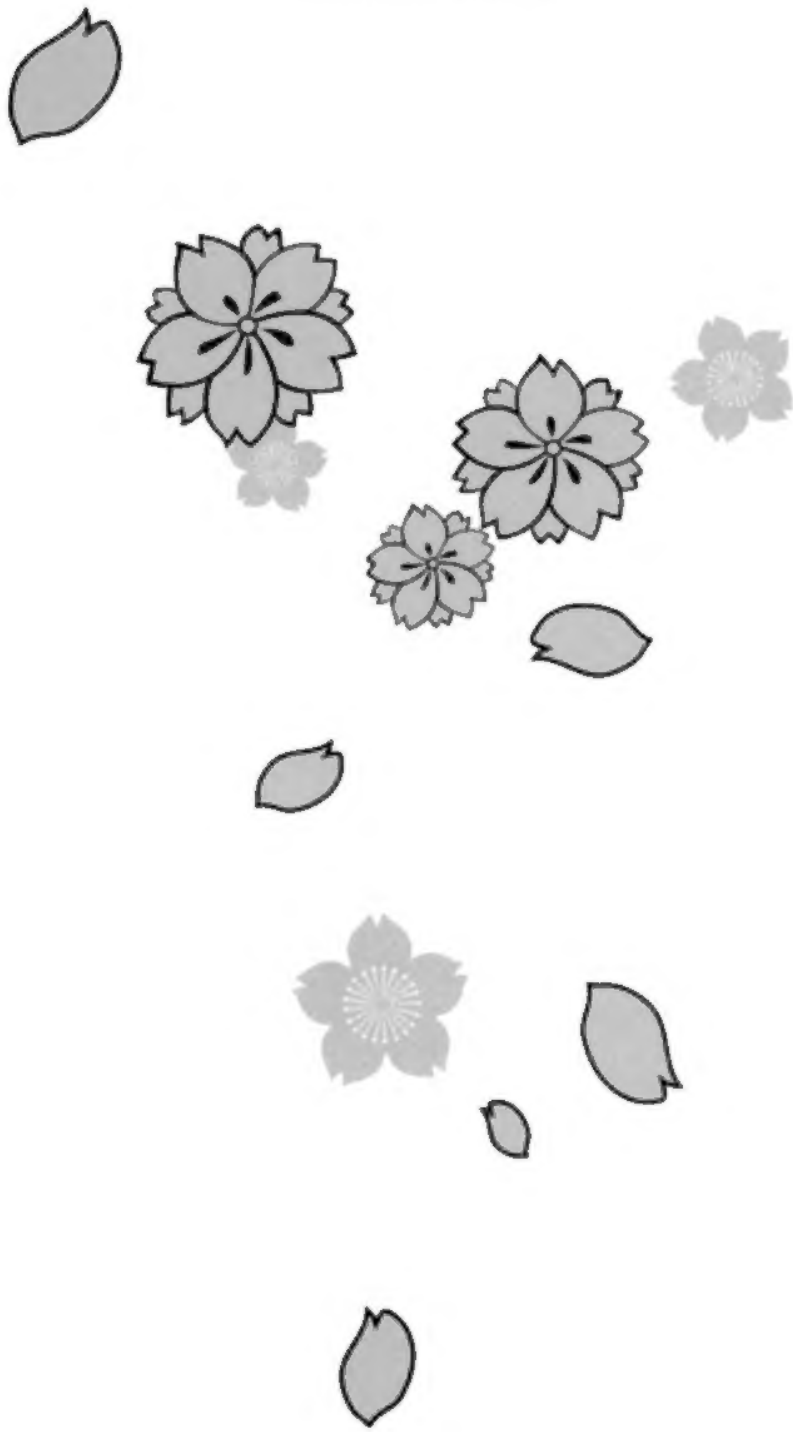
A Note from the Author

I usually try to include an eating or sleeping scene in each chapter.
This is so I'll remember that these kids are still growing...
Actually, I just like seeing people eat and sleep.

Suzuhito Yasuda



Honorifics Explained

In this manga book, you will find Japanese honorifics left intact in the translations. For those not familiar with how the Japanese use honorifics and, more important, how they differ from American honorifics, we present this brief overview.

Politeness has always been a critical facet of Japanese culture. Ever since the feudal era, when Japan was a highly stratified society, use of honorifics—which can be defined as polite speech that indicates relationship or status—has played an essential role in the Japanese language. When addressing someone in Japanese, an honorific usually takes the form of a suffix attached to one's name (example: "Asuna-san"), is used as a title at the end of one's name, or appears in place of the name itself (example: "Negi-sensei," or simply "Sensei!").

Honorifics can be expressions of respect or endearment. In the context of manga and anime, honorifics give insight into the nature of the relationship between characters. Many English translations leave out these important honorifics and therefore distort the feel of the original Japanese. Because Japanese honorifics contain nuances that English honorifics lack, it is our policy not to translate them. Here, instead, is a guide to some of the honorifics you may encounter in our manga.

-san: This is the most common honorific and is equivalent to Mr., Miss, Ms., Mrs. It is the all-purpose honorific and can be used in any situation where politeness is required.

-sama: This is one level higher than "-san" and is used to confer great respect.

-dono: This comes from the word "tono," which means "lord." It is an even higher level than "-sama" and confers utmost respect.

-kun: This suffix is used at the end of boys' names to express familiarity or endearment. It is also sometimes used by men among friends, or when addressing someone younger or of a lower station.

-chan: This is used to express endearment, mostly toward girls. It is also used for little boys, pets, and even among lovers. It gives a sense of childish cuteness.

Bozu: This is an informal way to refer to a boy, similar to the English terms "kid" and "squirt."

Sempai/Senpai: This title suggests that the addressee is one's senior in a group or organization. It is most often used in a school setting, where underclassmen refer to their upperclassmen as "sempai." It can also be used in the workplace, such as when a newer employee addresses an employee who has seniority in the company.

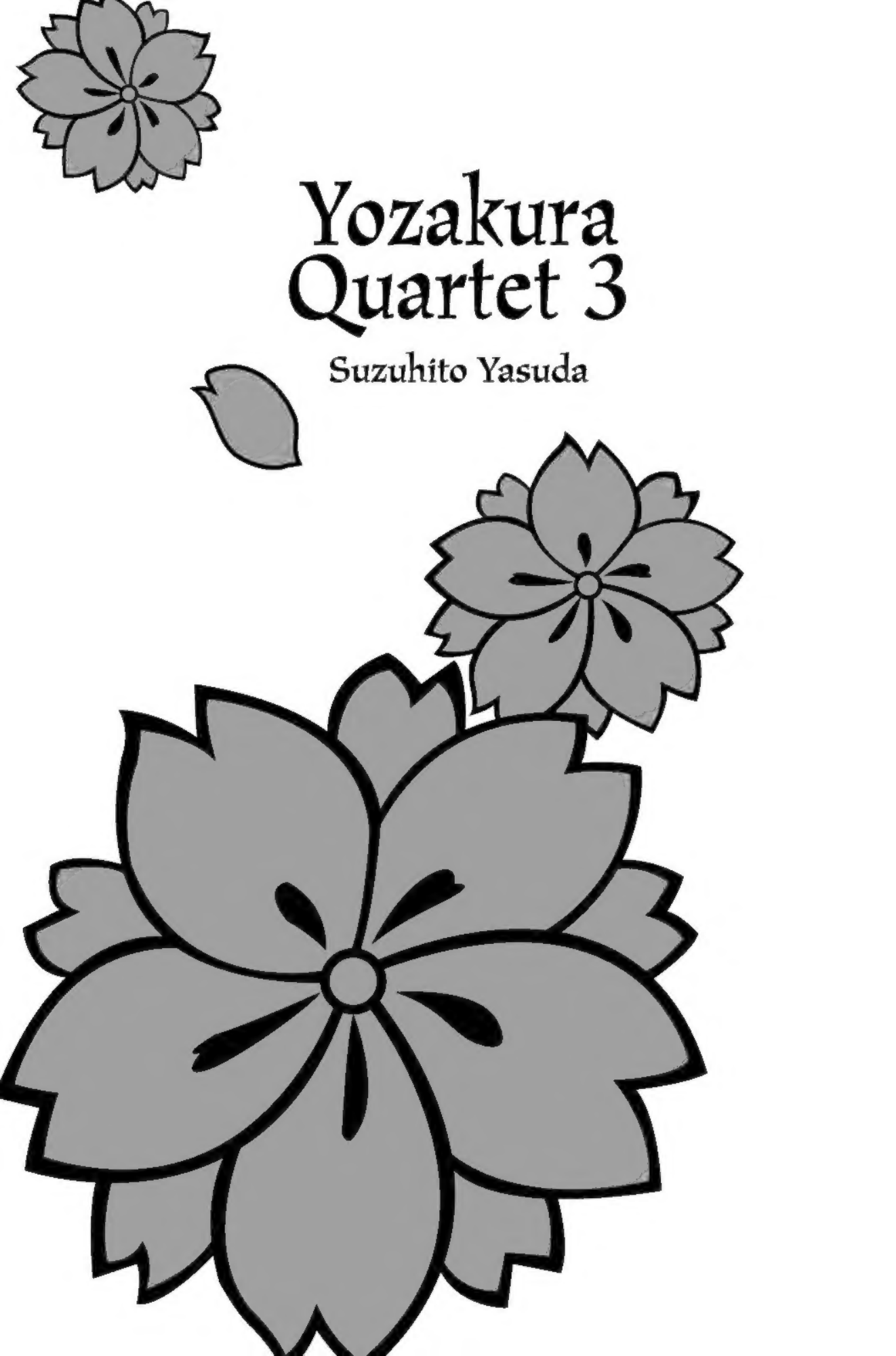
Kohai: This is the opposite of "sempai" and is used toward underclassmen in school or newcomers in the workplace. It connotes that the addressee is of a lower station.

Sensei: Literally meaning "one who has come before," this title is used for teachers, doctors, or masters of any profession or art.

-[blank]: This is usually forgotten in these lists, but it is perhaps the most significant difference between Japanese and English. The lack of honorific means that the speaker has permission to address the person in a very intimate way. Usually, only family, spouses, or very close friends have this kind of permission. Known as *yobisute*, it can be gratifying when someone who has earned the intimacy starts to call one by one's name without an honorific. But when that intimacy hasn't been earned, it can be very insulting.

Yozakura Quartet 3

Suzuhito Yasuda



YOZAKURA QUARTET
Akina Hiizumi
The director of the Hiizumi Life Counseling Office. He is a normal human who has to deal with all the weirdness that occurs in the town.
Kotoha Isone
A part-time worker at the Hiizumi Life Counseling Office. She is a kododama user—someone who can conjure up anything she speaks.
Juri
Yae Shinatsuhiko
Touka Kishi
Rin Azuma
CHARACTER PROFILE
Mariabell
Yuuhi Shinatsuhiko
Kyosuke Kishi
Kana Tatebayashi
Shidou Mizuki
Mina Tatebayashi
Ao Nanami
An employee of the Hiizumi Life Counseling Office. She is a satori—a demon that can read others' minds.
Hime Yarizakura
Hime is the mayor of Sakurashin Town. She is in high school. She has superhuman abilities.

Yozakura Quartet Contents

005..... Thorny Road (Part 2)
037..... Thorny Road (Part 3)
067..... Thorny Road (Part 4)
103..... Thorny Road (Part 5)
135..... Thorny Road (Part 6)
175..... Thorny Road (Part 7)
212..... Extras

Thanks for having a party for me tonight! I couldn't be happier!!
SHINE SHINE
Thanks, everyone!
Who brought the alcohol here?!
DRUNK
I will remember this feeling while I work hard during the upcoming election.
MUNCH MUNCH

12th Night: Thorny Road (Part 2)

Phew.
RUB
RUB
ホニ
ホニ
Sorry we made a mess.
It's okay.
She's our guest.
Are you okay?
Oh, Hime.
CREAK

Sigh.
What's wrong?
Just remembering when I was younger.

But I wonder if I'm as fit to be a mayor as my grandmother was.
You're not confident in your abilities?

When I was her age, I was fired up to improve the town.
Zzz
The serpent lies coiled in Naples.
Great People of the World
I've been working nonstop until now.

Well...

You're a piece-of-crap mayor!
Work hard, just like your grandmother.
I don't know.
.....
But I do know I'm tired.
SIGH
はぁ
.....

I enjoy living in this town.
I'm sure everyone else would agree with me.

ROLL
Don't worry.

There's no point in being down!
HEE HEE!
Oh, you're cheered up already?

I see.
Like she said.
Maybe

ZZZ

That's true.
You should know by now!
I keep things simple. Always have, ever since I was a kid!
This is a town with demons and humans living side by side, so it may be hard.
I still have many things I want to do as a mayor.
But it's a good challenge!
I'll make our town a better place to live next year, and even better the year after that!
Yup!

Next year...and the year after that, huh?
.....
.....
?
What is it?
POKE
Tell me.
POKE
Ack! Stop!
Not there!!
POKE
ぎゃはは HA HA HA HA
What? Why do you look so serious?
Huh? Nothing.

?
Maybe this is the perfect opportunity to say it.
.....
What?
?
The Seven Pillars...
...are going to bloom?!

What do you mean?
Why now?
What's going to happen?!
.....

Long ago, the success rate of tuning the demons was extremely low.
Whenever we failed, they'd disappear from both worlds, which meant a real death.

Originally...
...the Seven Pillars weren't from this world.

And it was my ancestors, the Hiizumi family, who wanted to do something about that.
.....

So they worried about the margin of error and the right coordinates.
They thought if they addressed that, they could tune more successfully.
Two men raised their hands.
Their names were Oushu and Enyou Hiizumi.
Those two took up the Oyakume mantle.

He carried the hope of all demons.
Oushu tuned Enyou with his consent and sent him to the Afterworld.
...seven enormous trees suddenly appeared.
And one day, a year later...

Enyou half-tuned these large trees to this world.
This created the spiritual sakura—the "Seven Pillars" that existed in both worlds.
It was the exact coordinates demons needed for tuning.
But Enyou never came back after that.
We couldn't contact him from our world or find out what happened to him.
So the Hiizumi family assumed he hadn't expected to return.
Either way, the success rate of tuning went way up, thanks to the Seven Pillars.
Demons and people came to gather around the Seven Pillars...

...
...and created the Sakurashin Town we have today.

Firstly...
When the Seven Pillars bloom, what then?!
...
I'm the mayor. I know that already!
So what's going to happen?!

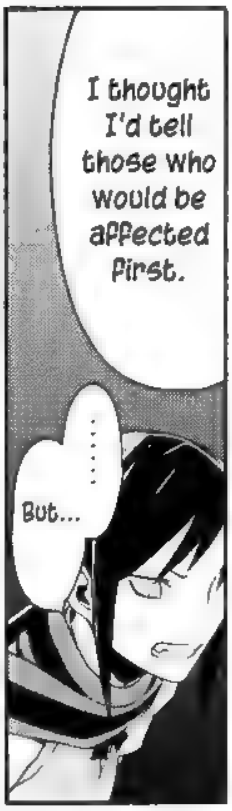
!
As a result, the demons living in the other world will flow into this one.
When the two dimensions' Seven Pillars merge, the two worlds merge, as well.

And secondly...
two dimensions are assimilating, so the dimensions' density will increase and probably affect the demons here.
They might lose control or, worst-case scenario, die.
...!
Huh?
.....
What? Everyone knew about this?!
Why am I the only one who didn't know? How come you guys didn't tell me?!
.....
Hime...
.....

...you're not a demon.
!
It's because...

So I think it's going to have an effect on me.
.....

...what about Kotoha? Kotoha's also not a demon!
But I've fallen before.


I thought I'd tell those who would be affected first.
.....
But...

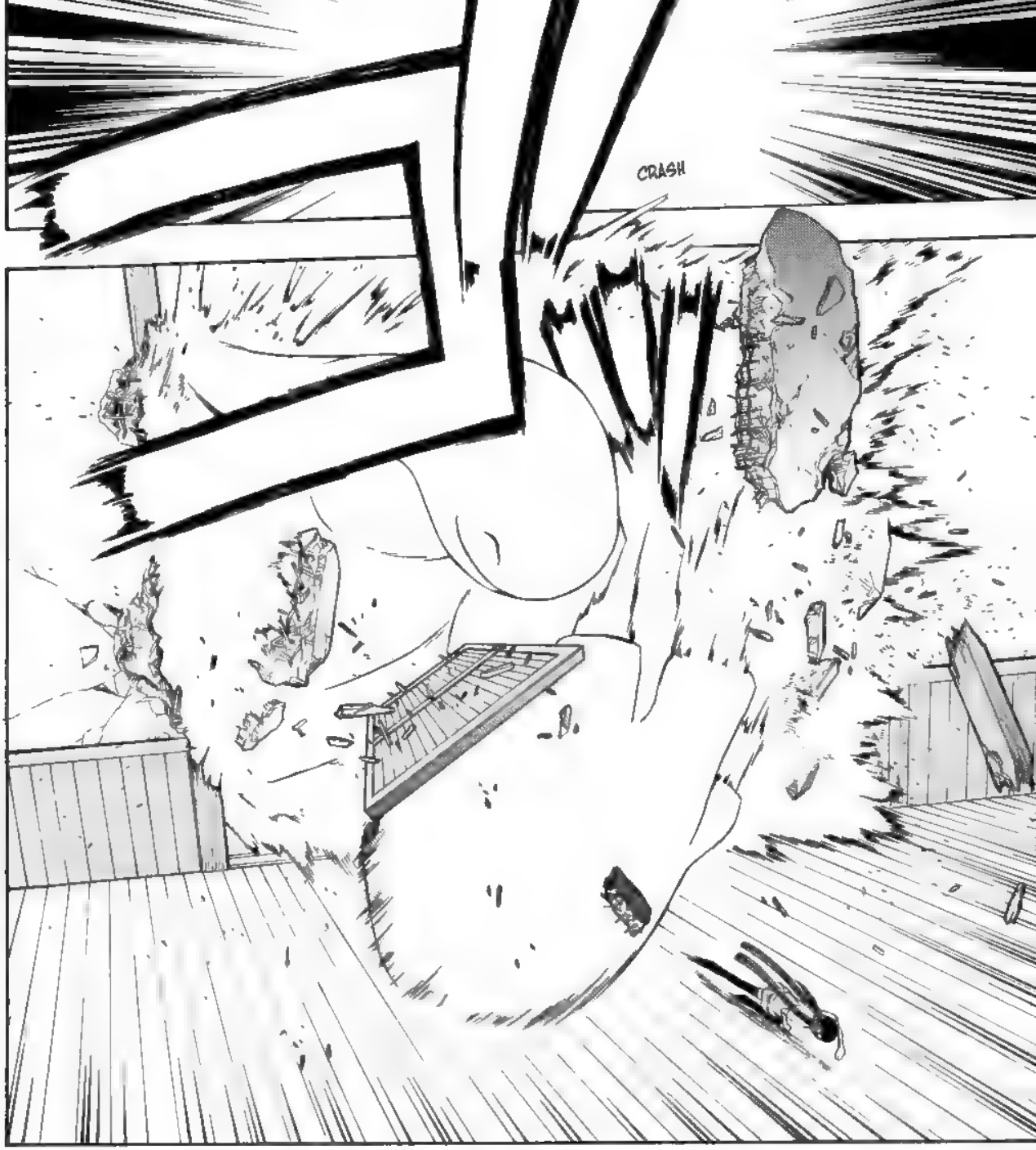
GRAB
Hime.
I'm the mayor! Why am I the last to know something so important?!
CLENCH
But... I'm...
I'm working hard as the mayor!
Do you think I'm a crappy mayor who just got the job because of my grandmother, like those other people do?!
Hime...
Answer me!!
I wanted to tell you earlier, but I thought it would just make you worry.
I thought it would be best if our office handled it.
.....

ピンポーン
DING DONG
ooo
.....
Someone's at the door.
Hime, calm down, okay?
.....
I'll get it.
I'll go, too.
This isn't a good time.
Yes?
SLIDE ガラランラン
?

Good evening.
GRIN
?!

!
THUD
GRIP
What the heck is this thing?!
Ouch!
Waah.

Kyosuke!
Yes!
GRAB
I guess it can't be helped! I'll let you use the Dragon Spear!
Head to the training hall!!
Gotcha!
Take that!
THROW
Follow me, you Monster!!
DASH
WHACK
CRASH
Eeeek!
UGH
WOOSH


CRASH

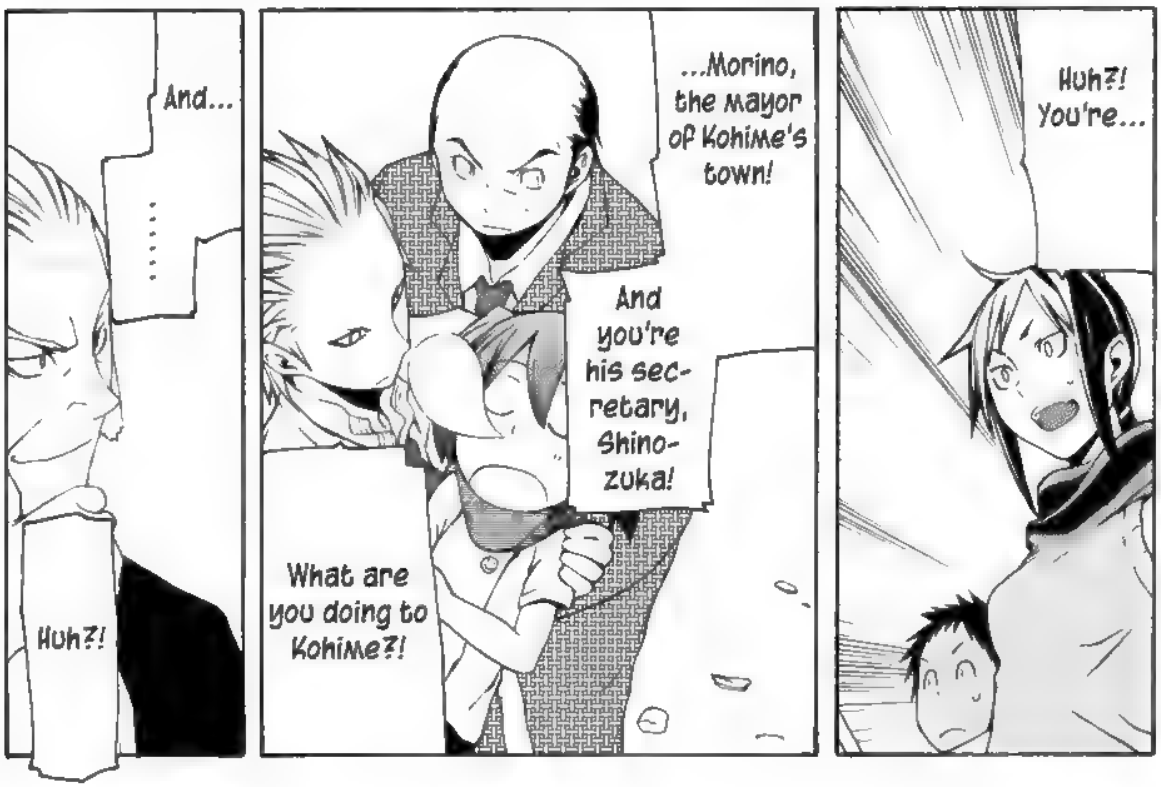
Ninth Formation.
JUMP
Come on!
WOOSH
GRAB

"Cloud Slice!!"
CRASH
Seventy-first formation. "Chidori!!"
THUD
THUD
Fiftieth formation. "Moon Phase!"
SWING
This will finish it!
The last formation.
TMP
I can do this!
Gah!
TURN

"Great Fireworks!!"
SPIN!!
Huh?!
CLOMP
Hime!
DAAASH

I can't do it!
What is this thing, anyway?!
CREAK
Hm.

I knew it. You haven't mastered the Dragon Spear.


And...
.....
Huh?!
What are you doing to Kohime?!
And you're his secretary, Shinozuka!
...Morino, the mayor of Kohime's town!
Huh?! You're...

STING
!
STING
!

Uh.
Who are
you?
Nice to
meet
you?
Heh.
BEEP
BEEP

I would like
to introduce
myself, but
I'm pretty
busy.
BEEP
I'm sorry,
but I'll do
my business
quickly and
leave.

SST

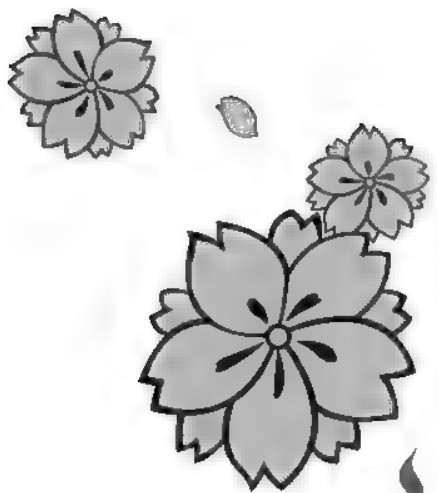
What the
heck?
The atmo-
sphere.

Large Demon Barrier...
THUD
...commence!!

Urgh!!
Whoa, it works pretty well.
!
BZZT
BZZT
BZZT
Ao! Kyosuke! Touka! Are you okay?!
BZZT
Urrgh!
BZZT
It's a barrier that presses down on demonic energy.
I guess it doesn't work that well unless you're a pure demon.
STING
GRRUMMMBBLLEEE
A demonic barrier?!
STING
GRRUMMMBBLLEE

Hime!!
Urg.
Urgh!
Hmph.
Hey, are you okay? Why are you affected?
Hime! Get up!
I said it responds to demonic energy.
Didn't I?
Well...

That means...No way!
What?
Hime's a demon?!
BZZT BZZT
Urgh!



Yozakura Quartet 3

Primary Stages of Yozakura Quartet

Age: 24

Hobbies:
Cruising with Yae

Favorites

Food:
Spicy food

Music Group:
ACIDMAN

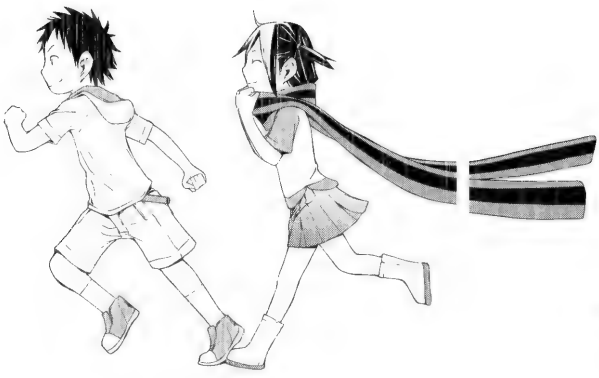
Comedian:
Kirin

Uchi-P Member:
Azu-chan

Little-Known Fact:
She sleeps ten hours a day.

I said it responds to demonic energy.
Didn't I?
Well...
No way!
What?
Hime's a demon?!
Urgh!

13th Night: Thorny Road (Part 3)



What does it mean? You're a demon?!
Urgh!
Hime!
Ugh.

If it responds to demonic energy...

...that thing should be weakened, too!
DASH

Hime, it's impossible!!
Give back...
Kohime!!

We'll discuss it later.
GRAB

GRIP
...there's just...
...too much muscle.
True.
But unfortunately...
CRASH!

...Dragon Spear broke!!
The...

We should leave it to our hyper-active mayor.
BUZZ
BUZZ
It's important for everyone to participate in these things.
They should leave the night patrol to the young ones.
TMP
TMP
Sheesh.

バキッ
ドカッ
How rowdy! It's her house again!
Huh?
I'm going to complain!
Hold it. Don't you think it's strange?
Strange?
バキッ
What the...?

Whoa!

Hime-chan!
Oh.
Granny Kiku?

THUD
Gotcha!
Urgh!

You both need to get out of here! Quick!
Yeah, right! I can't leave you...

Old man Jinroku.
What's all this racket? Why are you so beat up?

...here.
BOOM
What?
WOOSH
WHACK

ゴゴゴゴゴゴゴゴ
ズ…
THUNK

Argh!
What the heck is this?

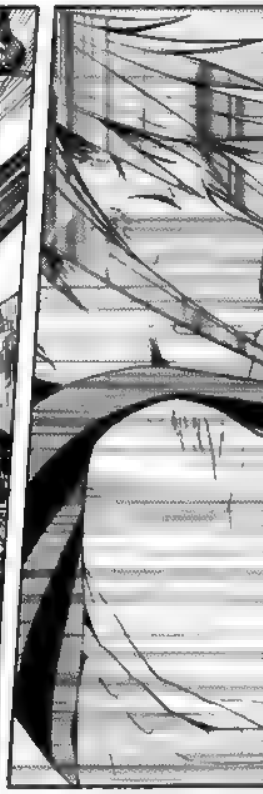
ｸﾞｯ
GRIP

Eek!
THUD
...attack my people!
GRRRIP
Don't you dare...
GRIP
DRAG
ゴゴゴゴゴゴゴゴ
RRRUMMMMBBBLLLEEE

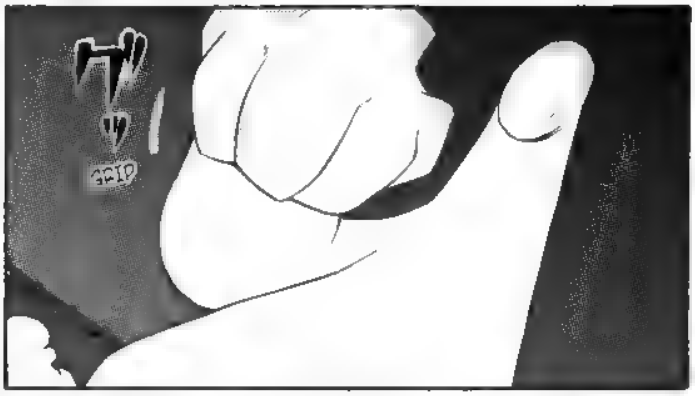
Gah!
CRASH
GRIP

Hime-chan!
STOMP
STOMP
Grrgh.

THUD



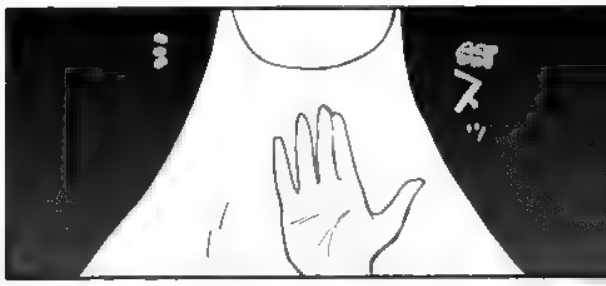
Urgh.


GRIP

ズゥゥゥン
-BOOM
ISONA
BANK
KAAA-
!
.....?
だだだだ
Hime!!
D'AAAAASH

You're brave.
But we'll leave it at that.
I'm not so evil that I'd hurt a little girl.

Hey, you! Monster! I'll take you on!
Hime!
ISONA
BANK



First:
Pull this kid out of the race for mayor...
...and reelect the current mayor.
!

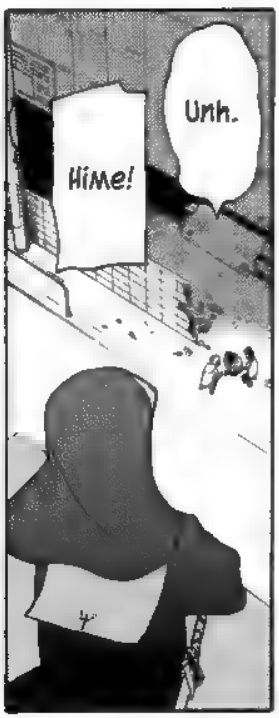
Give me back Kohime!
I will.

On two conditions.

And second:
Morino!
.....
We'll never do that!
We're not negotiating.
Look at the position you're in.
Turn over...
the mayorship of Sakurashin...
...directly to me.
!

The deadline is tonight.
We'll be waiting for you at the main street.
.....!

.....
SHINK


Unh.
Hime!

Hime, are you okay?
Hime!
Urrggh.
BZZT
BZZT
.....
Why didn't you tell anyone...
...that you're a demon?
.....
SST
Yae-san!
!
Hello.
Urg.
Hime!
BZZT
BZZT
TMD

FOOSH
スゥ…
!
FOOSH
スゥ…
The pressure is gone.

Yae-san?
I didn't get rid of the barrier.
I just weakened the energy of the demons in this town.

Fresh Spring.
WOOSH

DIZZY
Huh?
And because the entire town's energy went down...
.....
And it's not like I gave anything, so my brother shouldn't complain.
I eased the pressure.
.....
Memory?
It'll come back.
...the memory I sealed six years ago...
SHINK

This...
...blocks most of your demon powers.

.....
SOB
SOB

It's so big, and it's on my neck.
The scar.
SOB
TEAR

How do you feel, Hime?
.....

Thank you, Yae-san.
Well, her powers are too strong and this is the only alternative.
SHINK

Sheesh.
SOB
SOB
SOB
TMP
TMP
SOB
SOB
TMP
TMP
Urgh.
Stop crying already! You're our future Mayor, aren't you?!
SOB

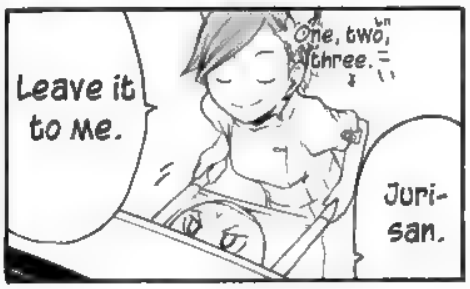
Hey, let go!
No! It's fine!
TUG TUG
Let me fix it.
TUG
SQUEEZE
It's long.
Huh?!
SHOCK
Hey, it looks pretty good.
With that wrapped around you, no one will see the scar!

It's fine!
I like it as it is!
Well, if you say so.
Yae-san.
I have a favor to ask.
Hm?
Starting today, the day I take over as Mayor...
...I want you to erase that I'm a demon from everyone's memory.
That way, I think I can see things from both a human and demon's point of view!

...his memory of that scarf you're wearing.
.....
But all memories that relate to the fact that you're a demon will be sealed away.
It's no problem.
For example...
This...
...is what I've prepared for.
I don't mind. Please do it.
So you'll just deal with everything on your own?
.....

You always handled things on your own, even when we were small.
So I think I was trying...
to do the same thing.
Sorry, Akina.
I re-member now.
But...
Hime—
...that about you.
Because I liked...

Akina, please...
TAP
I can't handle this on my own.
.....
Please.
...Kohime and this town.
...help...



XX 16th Sunny

Suzuki-san on Third Street contacted me about the family dog, who ran away. I was asked to get in touch immediately when we find the dog.

Granny Yoshihara caught a cold. I told her to go see a doctor if it lingered. I should stop by tomorrow, too. I should also tell everyone in the shopping arcade that it's gotten hot, so they should be careful about food poisoning.

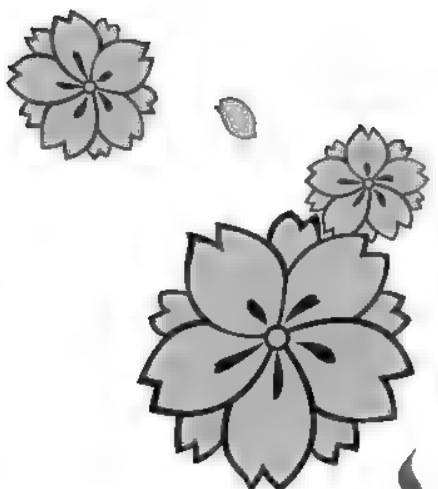
First Street had a fire. Luckily, it was small.

A new resident moved into Kitayama-san's condominiume on Second Street. I went to say hello and also told them to make sure they lock their doors.

Kohime arrived. I would like her to become a great mayor, but I'm a little worried... First, she needs to win the election. We're having a party for her tonight.

Old Man Jinroku was full of energy again today. (Too much energy). I was relieved to see that his legs were doing pretty well.

WRITE
WRITE
WRITE
WRITE
.....
EH?
CLOMP
SQUEAK
Leave it to us!
WHAP



Yozakura Quartet 3

Primary Stages of Yozakura Quartet

Age: Unknown

Hobbies:
Making Mariabell cosplay

Favorites

Food:
Anything made with flour

Music Group:
Akiyuki Nosaka

Comedian:
Nasu Nakanishi

Uchi-P Member:
Tet-chan

Little-Known Fact:
He is weak against sunlight.

Fighting Strategy
SLAM!
WARM
WARM
Okay, you guys! Is everyone showered and ready?
I'm going to review our strategy!

Shidou-san will drive the police car!
.....
It's a new car, so please be nice to it.

Hey, are you guys listening?!

Horse Team
Bear Team
Ao, Touka, and I will do something about the barrier!
Akina and Kyosuke will rescue Kohima! That's everything!

Yeah.
.....

We're off, but until we get the barrier down, be careful!
Really care-ful!
Yeah.

Akina! Kyosuke!
Don't do anything stupid!
Yeah!

Let's go.
Okay.

SEES

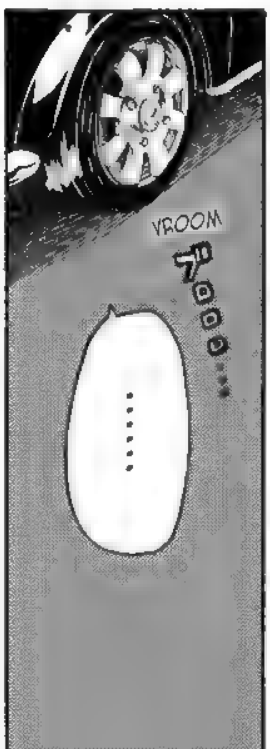
バタン
.....

Yeah.
Heh.
They said don't do anything stupid.
They don't get it, do they?
WOOOSH
This is exactly when we need to do something stupid!
Right?!
I agree.
CRACKLE

14th Night:
Thorny Road
(Part 4)

I said we'd take care of the barrier.
7"

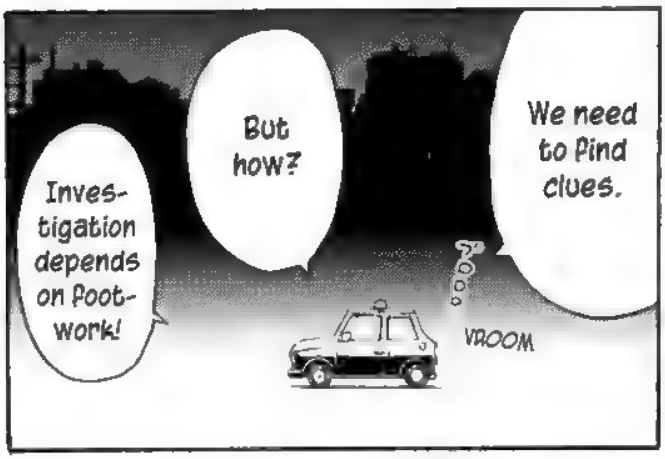
But I honestly don't know how.
What should we do?
VROOM


VROOM
.....

BITE
I guess.
Maybe he activated a switch far away, using his phone.
That man used his cell just before the barrier.

HMM.
And why would that old man have it?

Why would there be such a device?

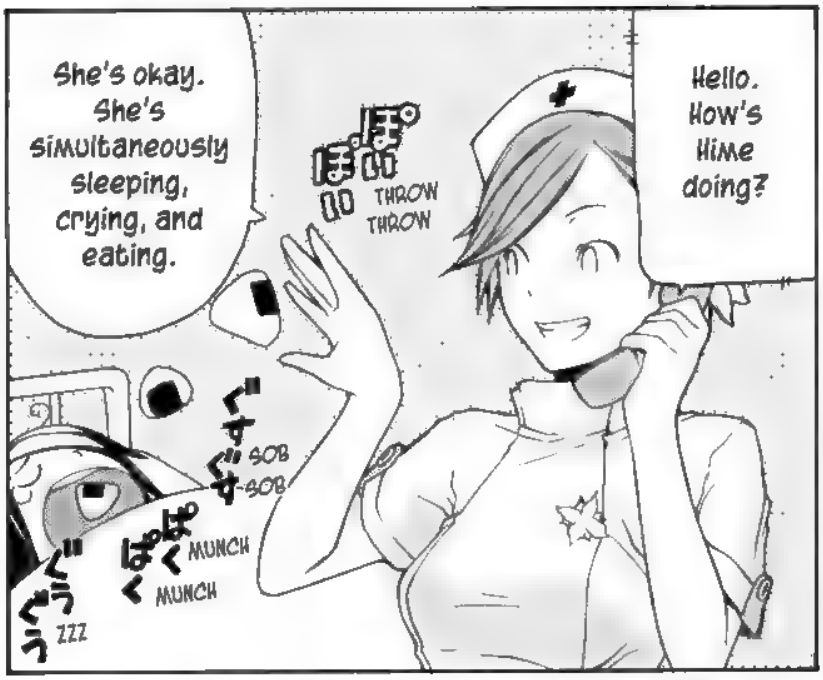

Inves-tigation depends on foot-work!
But how?
We need to find clues.
VROOM

Kotoha-chan?
Huh?
Sorry.

Huh?

We should go everywhere and get information.

Was that Kotoha?
RING RING
?
ひえええ
AAAGGHHHH


She's okay. She's simultaneously sleeping, crying, and eating.
Hello. How's Hime doing?
THROW THROW
SOB SOB
MUNCH MUNCH
ZZZ

BEEP
Hello?
Hello, this is Juri.

It's so quiet.
Oh. No wonder.
And I had the townspeople evacuate to the community center.

Hold on.
It's a little hard to explain.
Are you near the town border?
Umm.
Says you, Kyosuke.
Isn't it safer for them to get out of town?
Com-munity center?
.....
Here we go!
Okay.?
Try going out.
Go ahead.
I see.
.....

We can't muster the will to step outside.
That's right.
We can't leave.
Or more like...
Simply that she convinced people that things were natural when they really didn't add up.
You never thought Hime-chan having superpowers was odd, right?
Now that you mention it.
When Yae sealed everyone's memory,
she also eliminated the feeling that things were strange.
What do you mean?
Who exactly is he?
Um, I don't know.
So no one can leave.
So something similar was cast by that old man upon the townspeople.
A land god can do amazing things.

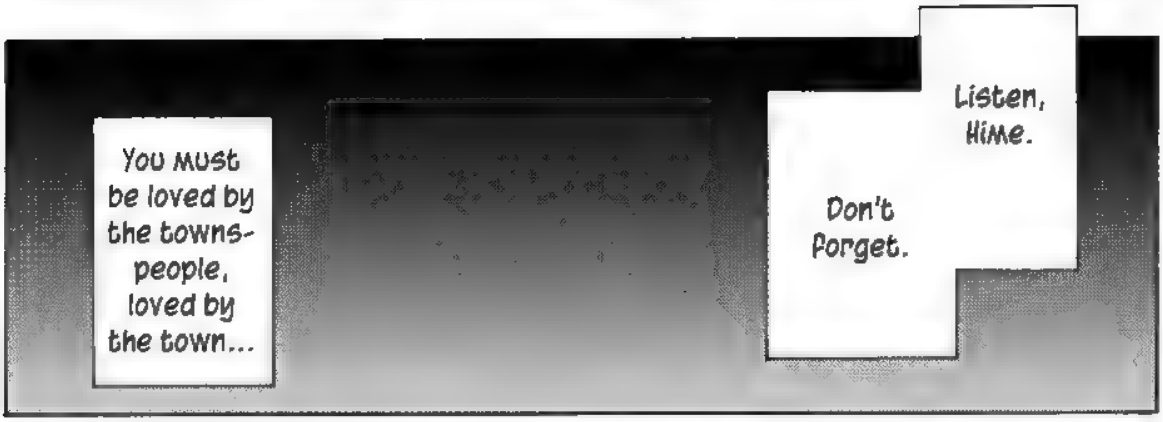
So we can't rely on Yae anymore.
Good luck! Buh-bye!
CLICK
Oh, she hung up.
AKA Torture Room
She's getting scolded as we speak. I can't get in touch with her.
After lifting the pressure, Yae was called in by Yuuhi-san.
You did it again.
SCOLDING FAN
Well...
We need to find out where to go after them.
I don't think that will be necessary.
ZISH

Are you ready to surrender?
You guys are late.
.....
What?
The main street is one street over. Why are you here?
.....
Huh?
I see.
I made a mistake.
Is this guy okay?
Oh well.

Right.
GRIP
I see you have no intention of surrendering.
Of course not.
Well, then.
SST

Hey!
Tenzaki Pottery
I'm coming!
What's holding you up? Everyone left already!
What is that?
Leave it!
Leave me alone!
But I wonder if Hime-chan will be okay?
.....
ばっ
DASH
Okay, let's go!
Whoa, almost forgot.
TURN
Hey!

She won't die even if you kill her.
.....

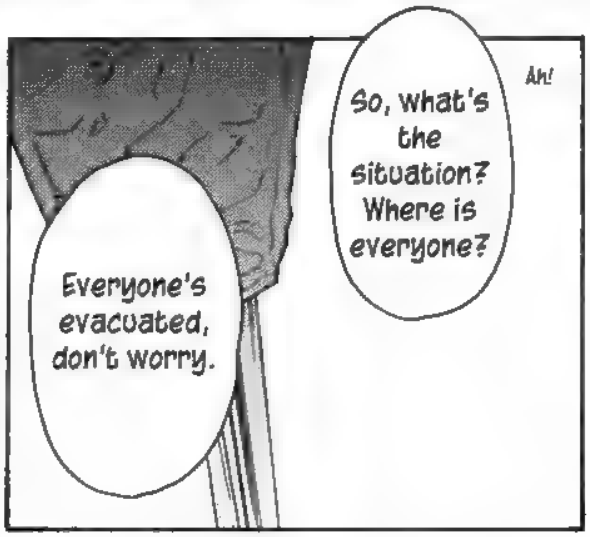

You must be loved by the towns-people, loved by the town...
Listen, Hime.
Don't forget.

.....
...and loved by the dragon.

Oh.
むっく
WAKING
Mn.

You have to rest.
You took a bad beating.
Owww.

Oh, okay.
Have some Milk.
ほっ PHEW

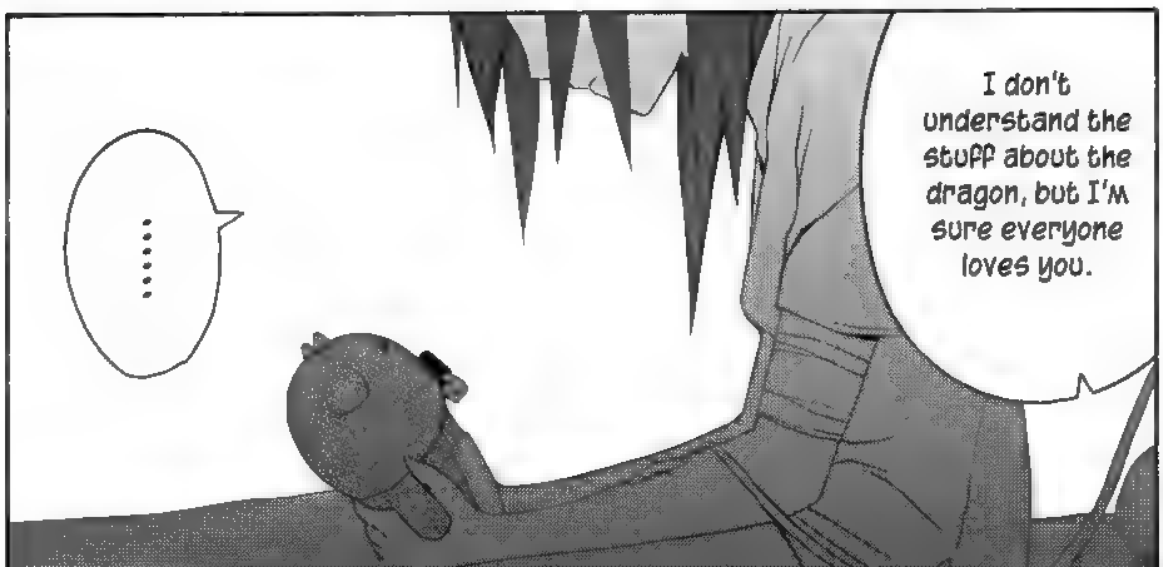

Ah!
So, what's the situation? Where is everyone?
Everyone's evacuated, don't worry.

Beating?
SAD しょん

What should I do? I caused trouble for all the townspeople. And my Dragon Spear broke.
I'm not loved by the townspeople or the dragon.
SIP
.....
Maybe I shouldn't be mayor anymore.
I don't think I deserve to be.
GASP
Why is it here?
Hidagyu?
ODO

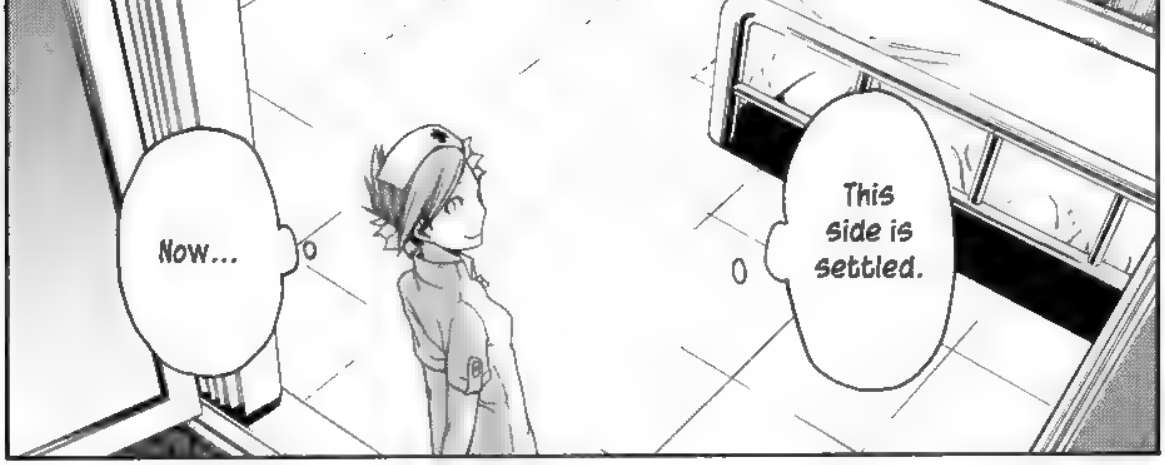
.....!

Hurry up and get better so we can sing the town song!
Junta
Sakurashin Town Song
Don't you remember? It's your seventh anniversary as mayor tomorrow.
Everyone was worried and stopped by before they left.
All this stuff...

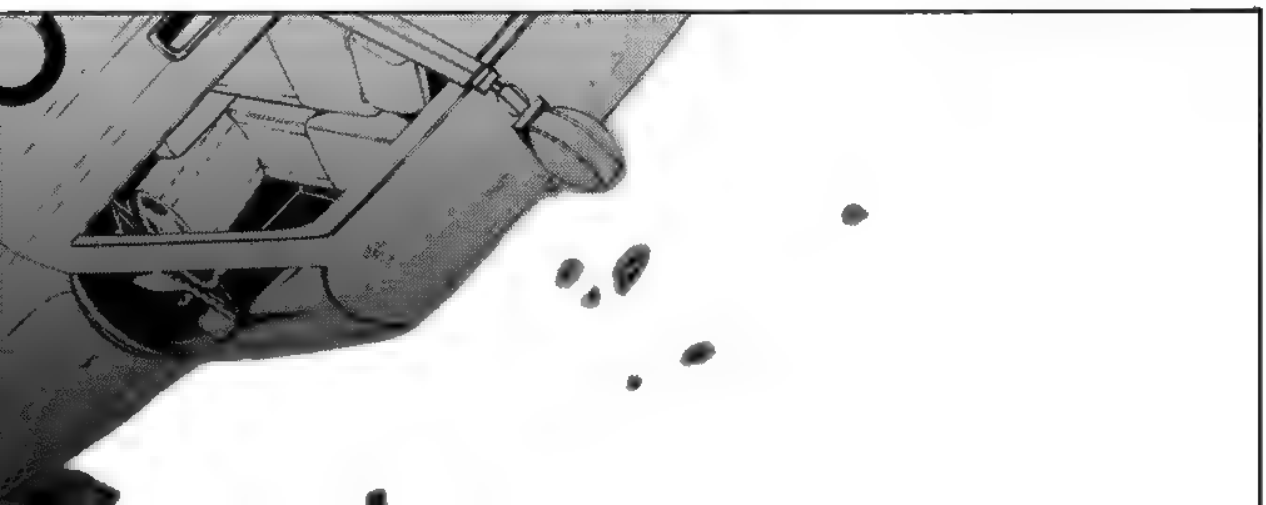

.....
I don't understand the stuff about the dragon, but I'm sure everyone loves you.

I have to go!
WOOSH
I need to protect the town!
Whoa.
TUG
RUB
RUB
I'm amazed at how fast you've healed, but you need to rest.
At least another hour.
An hour?! I can't rest that long when Akina and the gang are working hard!
PUSH
PUSH
I'm injured!
Ack!
フライングボディープレス!
FLYING BODY PRESS!
Noooo!
ばすん
THUMP
It's okay.
SST
Leave it to them, Madame Mayor.

You've worked hard these past six years.
They will forgive an hour.
.....
SOB
SOB
ぐすぐす
ぐうぐう...
ZZZZ
WOOSH
がばっ
ooo


Now...
This side is settled.

...I wonder how that side is doing?



CRASH!
Dang it!
CRASH!
Whoa!
Thank you.
Nice to meet you.
You're useless!
...we did trade business cards.
What the heck is up with this guy? I thought you knew him!
Well...
RRRUMMMBBLLLEEE
RRRUMMMBBLLLEEE
CRACK
Wouldn't know!
What's with his powers?! Why isn't he affected by the barrier?

The barrier doesn't affect me.
I'm a human, as well.
I'm not exactly a demon.
A half-demon?! Could he be...?
That's right.
I once fell, too.
Just like your kotodama user.
Whoa!

ボガ
WOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOSH
CRASH
What is he doing here?!
Eeeek!
ボガ
CRASH
What?! Why are you fighting, too?!
I don't know!!
THUD
CRASH
That's the least of my worries right now!
Hey, is the barrier gone yet?!
Hello?
RING
RING
Argh, what is it?!

Whoa, I got a phone call, too!
RING RING
WOOOOOOOSH
WOOOOOOOOSH
We need to get rid of that barrier, or both teams are dead meat!
We're trying, but—
Sheesh, you guys are useless.
Yeah.
The barrier is affecting Mariabell.
Hurry up and get rid of it.
Oh, the district mayor?
Hello?
Hello?
That's a huge range!!
...is somewhere within Tokyo.
Then here's a hint. The source of the barrier...
Where is it?!

By the way, why did you call me?
Why not Akina-san?
Huh? Isn't it obvious?
Find it??
Find it and destroy it.
It'll have to do.
It's because only you can find it.
Later.
.....
GASP
Think, think.
Some-thing only I can do...
MUMBLE MUMBLE
BEEP
What did Yuuhi-san say?!

RUSTLE
GASP
Reading minds.
WOOOOOOOSH
Oh yeah!
Something only you can do...
FUMBLE
FUMBLE
MUNCH
MUNCH
MUNCH
REPLENISHING ENERGY
But...
He expects you to read the minds of everyone in Tokyo?!
Oh my gosh.
It's a piece of cake!!
NOOSH
...that's over twelve million people!!
GULP
That was delicious!
CLAP

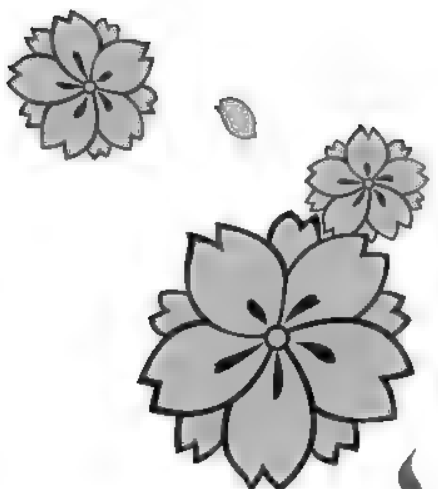
Satellite!!
Let's
g
o
o
o
o
o
o
o
o
o
o
o
o
o
o
o
!
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
BOOM
Whoa!

ブキ
STING
?!
Urgghhhhhhh.

BLIP
Any problems so far?
I'm okay.
!
Ao, don't push yourself!
That was... No, I'll deal with it later!
Ao?!
WOOOOOOOOSH
Found it!
It's Chiyoda district... No, Minato district?! It's a really high place!!
Did you hear that?!
A high place?!
Nothing, sir.
VOOOSH
VOOSH
!!

Can't you be a little more specific?!
Stop!
No more than that!
It's within the city and a high place!
The TV reception has been bad lately.
!
That's it!
The only thing that could transmit the barrier across such a wide range!

14th Night. Thorny Road (Part 4) END



Yozakura Quartet 3

Primary Stages of Yozakura Quartet

Mariabell

Age: 22

Hobbies:
Cooking

Favorites

Food:
Anything

Music Group:
Kazuyoshi Nakamura

Comedian:
Dayan

Uchi-P Member:
Parachute Troop

Little-Known Fact:
She likes Japanese food for breakfast (and gets mad if she doesn't get it).

I didn't have any early sketches of her.

That's it!
The barrier is coming from...
...Tokyo Tower!!
Whaaaat?!
TA-DAN

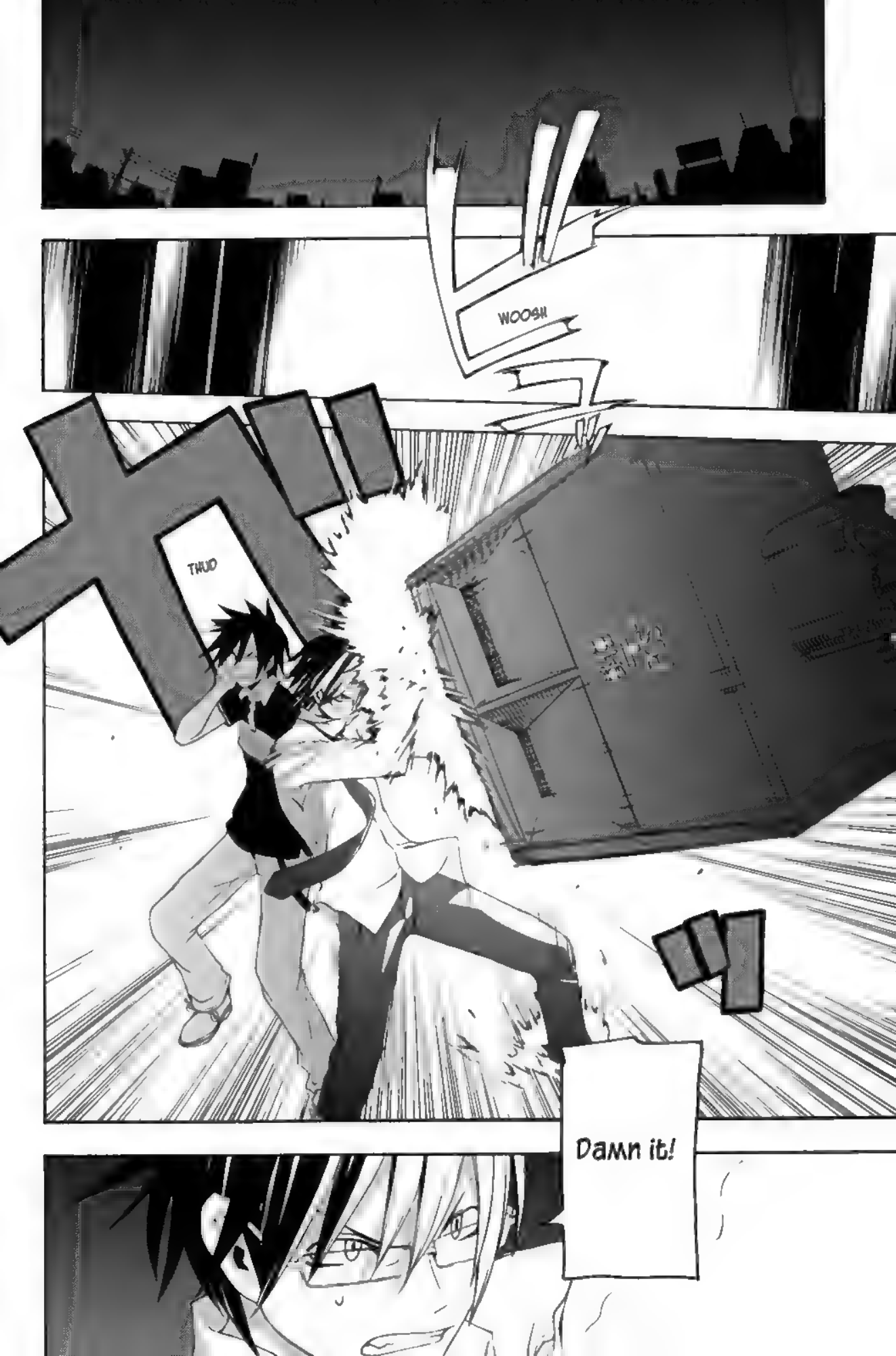
Huh?!
You can't leave town!
Shidou-san, how long to get to Tokyo Tower?
You can't go there!
As long as we know where it is, we can do something!
Okay.
PLOP
How about the 88mm cannon?
We can try to aim it from here.
Then what are we supposed to do?
SHEESH
What?! Why?!
You just can't get out!
I'll explain later!
Urgh...
About eight kilometers
It's too far! It only has a range of two kilometers*! It totally won't work!!

*Note: One kilometer is about thirteen city blocks.

.....
!
WOOOOOSH
SCREECH
Akina! Hold on a little bit longer!!
Touka, give me cough drops!!
Huh?!
Okay!
Leave it to me!
You have an idea?

I'll get rid of that barrier for sure!!
Leave it to me!
Okay, I trust you!
.....
Shidou-san! Can you drive parallel to the railway?
Sure thing!
Sheesh!
CRUNCH
I should've used the shortcut.
It looks tiring.
LICK

15th Night: Thorny Road (Part 5)

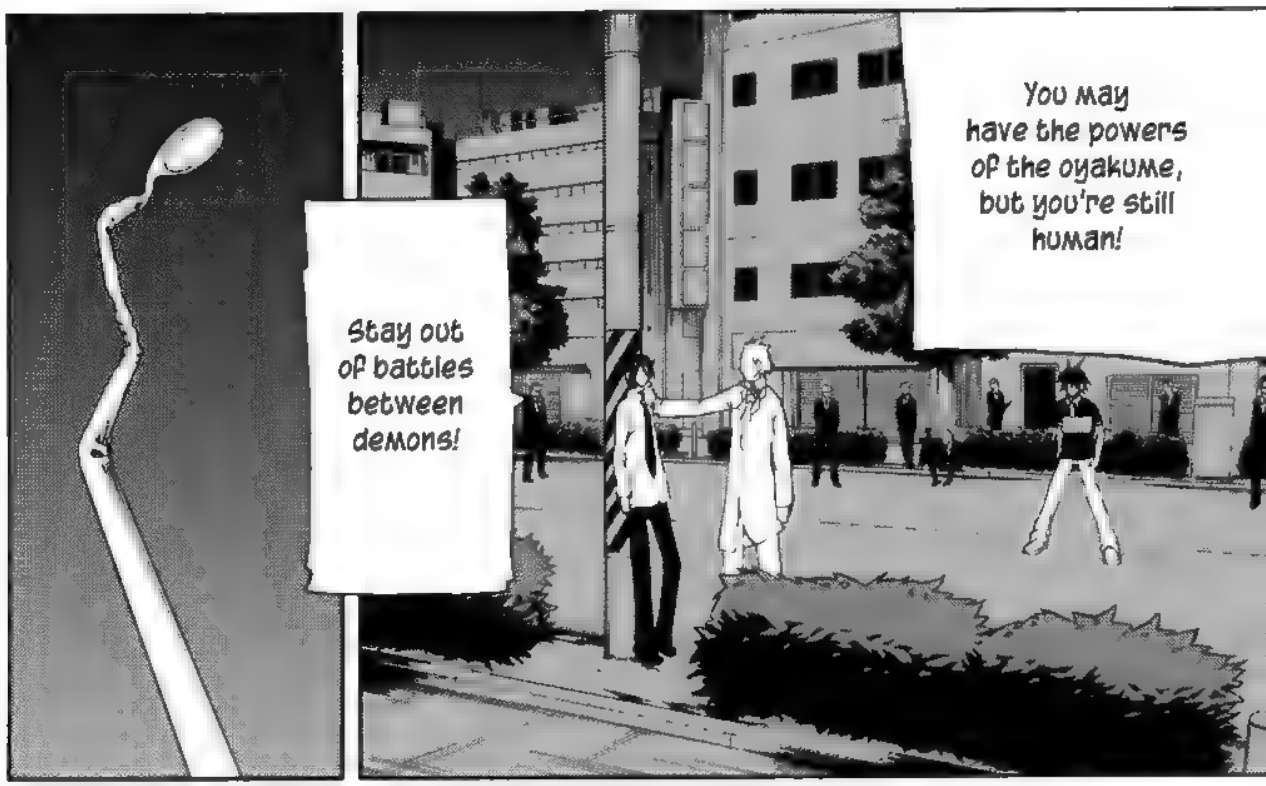

WOOSH
THUD
Damn it!

Demon powers are that strong, huh?
ZISH
Even weakened, you're still formidable.
HM.
CRUMBLE
CRUMBLE
It's not me, it's the mayor.
I'm just following orders.
Why?!
Why are you guys after our town?!
.....

I'm his secretary. The mayor's orders are absolute.
Right?
.....!
Why? Why is he doing this?!
.....
Your mayor, Morino...
.....
...he has a short temper, but he's never been a bad guy.

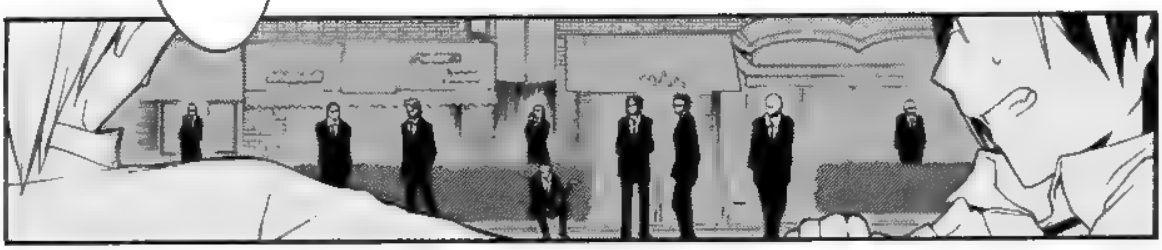
That...
ZOOM
GRAB
THUD
Gah!
SQUEEZE
Urgh...
...is none of my business— or yours!
SQUEEZE
SQUEEZE

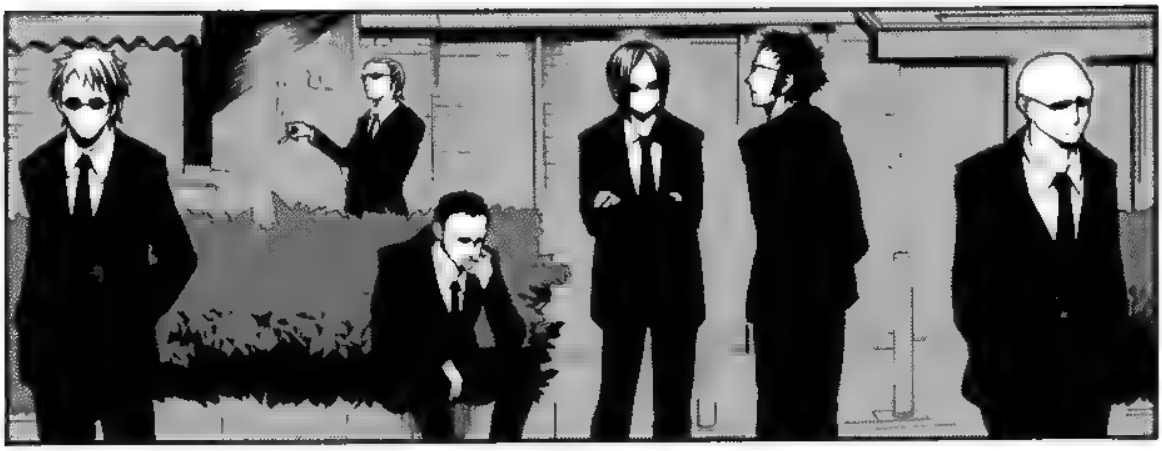
!
Stay back!
Kyosuke!


Stay out of battles between demons!
You may have the powers of the oyakume, but you're still human!

SQUEEZE
If both of us go down here...
GRAB
But...
Akina!
Stay there!
Er.
...who's going to protect...
...this town, Kohime, and Hime-sama?!

Damn it!
But...





SST

...how come the others aren't participating?

I hear that your previous mayor was a great person.
But the current mayor?
Hime-sama, huh?
Is she...
...worth the pain and suffering you're going through?
.....!
Kyosuke!

Noodles!
Give me noodles!
I'm hungry! I'm hungry!
Kyosuke! You have to try to remember the good things!!
Think positive!
Ummm.
SOB SOB

.....
カルカル…
WAITE
WAITE
CHUCK
Good job.
You need to hang in there, Hime-chan.
FIDGET
FIDGET
ぐぅぐぅ…
ZZZZ

Oh.
ハラリ
PLOP
Carte
Wow, this is a picture from when we were in Okayama.
THUD

BONK
Urgh!
Gah!
...I have to fulfill my duties.
GRIP
PUSH
Either way...
FLASH

Tuning!!
CRACKLE
FOOSH
Run for now!
We need to wait until the barrier is gone.
DAAAAAASH
だだだだ
Akina!
Urgh.
WOOSH
GRAB
KLUNK

But we don't know if the barrier is going to be there.
Kyosuke!
Kotoha said she'll get rid of it for sure.
You know what that means. She's a—
Oh!

We're going after them.
DAAAAAsh
だ だ だ
DASH
だ
Darn it!
だ だ だ だ だ
DAAAAAsh
Watch out!
I think our best bet is to hide somewhere for now!
So what now?
だ
だ
DAAAAsh
だ
だ

Whoa.
DASH
KA-POW
ROLL
ROLL
OW!

Hey, Kyosuke!!
ZISH
Urgh.
Kyosuke!
!
You caught up already?!
ZISH
It's over.
SCREECH

BAM
SCREEEEEEEEEEECH
THUD
Get in!!
Hurry!!!
WOOSH

ガラ
ROOM
Urg.
You should be thanking Ao-chan!
No way!
WOOOOOOOOSH
Thanks, Shidou-san! You saved our lives!!
Oh no! He's knocked out!
SCREECH
Whoa!
しゅう
WEAK
ZZZ
She used her last bit of energy to find out where you two were!
I see.

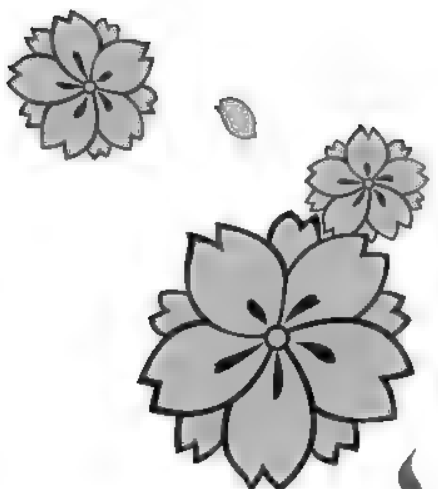
CLANG
Kotoha-chan is behind us!
Where's Kotoha?!
Did they get her?
Huh?
CLANG
Huh?
WOOOOOOSH
CLANG
CLANG
CLANG
CLANG
She's coming!!
CLANG
CLANG
Behind us?!
CLANG
CLANG

KABOOM

...rail gunz?!
VOOOSH
A...
What the...?!
Ack! My throat hurts!!
SCREECH
WOOOOSH

If I say it's going to hit, it will!
For sure!!
Wooooosh
She's gonna shoot that from here?!
There's no way she can pull it off!
.....
I'm a...
...kotodama user!!

It's going to hit!!
BOOM



Yozakura Quartet 3

Primary Stages of Yozakura Quartet

Shidou Mizuki -san

Age: 28

Hobbies:
Gardening

Favorites

Food:
Meaty things

Music Group:
Baker Brothers

Comedian:
Kamaitachi

Uchi-P Member:
Sekiya

Little-Known Fact:
He is a heavy drinker.

If I say it's going to hit...
...it will!!
BOOM

It's going opp course!!
NO WAY!!
Whaaaaat?!
Hey!
What?!
VOOOOSH

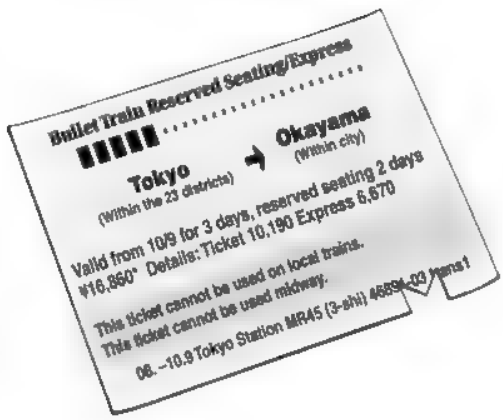
WHIRRR
A gust of wind?
!!

WHIRRR
Now what?
Whoa!
WHIRR!

All right!
It's pacing the right direction!
VOOOOOOSH
VOOOOSH
VOOOOOOOSH
What the ...?!
?!

ボ
ー
ン
ドキドキ
It hit!
……!
Yeah!
It worked!!
And I have gunpowder all over me!
It did?!
Oh.
WOOSH
スウッ…

It's gone!
Yeah!
Wait.
Oh no! I can't stop!!
The barrier's gone!
WOOOOOOSH
That wind...
.....
I'm so sleepy.
They owe me now.
BRUSH
SQUIRT


Bullet Train Reserved Seating/Express
Tokyo
(Within the 23 districts)
Okayama
(Within city)
Valid from 10/9 for 3 days, reserved seating 2 days
¥16,860* Details: Ticket 10,190 Express 6,670
This ticket cannot be used on local trains.
This ticket cannot be used midway.
06.–10.9 Tokyo Station MR45 (3-shi) 46894-03 Hanai

16th Night: Thorny Road (Part 6)

*equals approx. $169

Juri-san.
Juri-san!
Bento! Bento!
Okay.
Can I have one?
The station bento!
MUNCH
I'm glad you're enjoying the bento,
but don't forget the original purpose of this trip.
MUNCH MUNCH
I know, Juri-san!

My duty is to help demons by inviting them to live in our town!
This is my first job as a mayor-to-be.
I won't mess it up!
ズゥン
THUD
THUD
THUD
HUH?
I wonder if the barrier is gone?
.....
BEEP BEEP
Oh.
And it's been exactly an hour.
SLAM!

. . . . . .
WHOOSH
Good luck.
I'm always on your side, Hime-chan.
I'll heal you anytime
THUMP
Oh yeah.
I don't think Akina-kun had his checkup this month.

These beds are for patients.
But I should take a nap first.
I guess I should prepare for it.
THUMP

PATOMIZU
AMAGI
VROOM
NOOSH
SCREECH
CLICK
Here is Pine.
Thanks, Shidou-san.

I want you to protect them.
But—
I'd rather have you stay.
No.
I think I should go with you.
Please protect these guys. They fought hard for the city.
I can leave them with only you.
Okay.
.....
!
Akina-san!
ZWISH

TA-DAH
You shouldn't make an old man like me wait so long.
There you guys are.

I'M enough!
I'll kick all of your asses.
HM.
I guess you don't have anyone left to fight.
STOP
THROW
TUG
...until after you get past them.
THUD
Save your tough talk...

SLICE
Damn!
WHOOSH
THUNK
THUNK
THUNK
Whoa

Tuning!!
FLASH
FOOSH
Akina-san!
Ow!
WHACK

.....
Gah.
That hurt.

.....

Oh no.
What should we do?

ZISH

Hey.
Get the ones in the car.
Yes, sir.

SAT

GRAB
SQUEEZE
!
SQUEEEEZE
...!
...I don't know if I'll be able to restrain myself.
Please don't.
If something happens to them...
Heh.
You shouldn't do that.

.....
Even if...
...you band together, you can't defeat him.

Anyway...
Does he know me?

Do it.

...just focus on him. Then the mayor will give up.
Urgh!

.....!

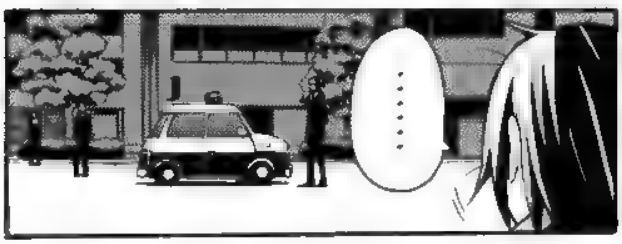
The express train doesn't stop here!
Could it be...?
It's to the west of Sangen-jaya!
What's this music?
.....?
Hime?! I thought you were injured!
Tsun tsun dere tsun
Dere tsun tsun
Tsun tsun dere tsun
Hm.
Gotta respect an enemy who takes a moment to put on a show.
But why don't you take your time?

But—
Dere tsun tsun
TA-DAH!
I got better!

WHIRRRR
It's right off...
...the freeway.
You're a tough cookie.
Hmph.
ぴょん
JUMP
I've always wanted to do this.
I'm saying this for your sake. And turn that music off!
BRIGHT
CLICK
カチ
But going to sleep early...
You should've stayed in bed! You won't be able to fight!
You're willing to die?!
The stores close at 9 P.M.

You're not okay at all!
HEE HEE
I just tripped, that's all.

WOOSH
Aaaggh!
SPLAT


.....

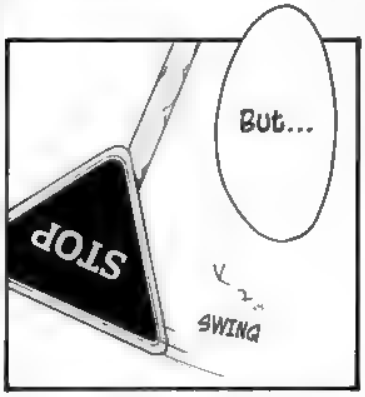
Sheesh
.....

You're crazy, you know that?

STOP
...I've changed my mind!
DASH

I was going to forgive you as long as we got Kohime back.
CLANG

Hime!
How dare you mess around in my town?


But...
STOP
SWING

WOOSH

THUD
...!
Urgh.
Stay out of this!
As long as there's no barrier, you guys are—
SWING

GRAB
STOP
WHACK
WHACK
Ugh.
Unfortunately,
you're not the only one who had his power weakened.
Huh?
Eep!

KA-POW!
Hime!
DASH
CRASH

Ah...
Akina!
Ouch.
That totally hurt.
Oh no!
Brother!
PINCH
むに
Brother, wake up!
Please!

だ
DAAAAAAAAH
だ
だ
HUFF.
HUFF.
だ
DAAAAAH
Big bro!
My feet hurt!
Just hurry!
だ
だ
DAAAAAH
Wait! We're not going to hurt you!
That's right.
だ
だ
Shut up!
Go home! We don't need your help or your protection!
Go home!
だ
DAAAAAH

Brother.
It's going to be the same no matter where we go.
I'm the one who's going to protect you!
DAAAAASH
RIP
WHAP
Ouch!
...
!
WOOSH.
SLAP
?!

You're going to protect her?! You're not protecting her now!
I'll take care of it.
Are you okay?
What the...?!
ズキーン KONK
OUCH!
People learn to protect others only after they are protected!
Until the day comes when you can protect your sister, we'll protect you!
So come to our town!
Well, that's what my grandmother said.
.....
You didn't have to tell him that much.

Urgh.
Everyone discriminated against us because we're demons. No one's ever said anything like that.
Urgh.
Then, it's settled.
Welcome to Sakurashin Town!
Big brother.

Wake up!
Come on!
PINCH
PINCH
Brother!

Urgh.

But—
No!
TUG
No!
Maybe I should go.
GRAB

You can't go up against that type of enemy.
So just stay here.
Err.
SOB
...!
BONK
I thought you would protect me!
Brother, wake up! Please!
Wake up!
ばちん
SLAP
ばちん
SLAP
Urgh!
WOOSH

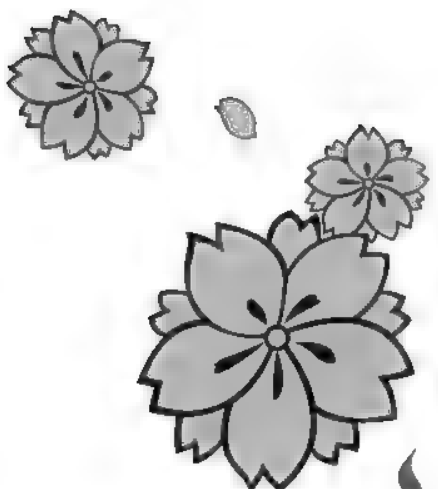
I thought you would protect all of us!!
Wake up, Brother!
TWITCH
It's over.
Urgh!
THUD
GRIP

THUD
CREAK
ガ
!
Huh?

A secretary?
I don't need one.
It's busy, but I can get by.
You like to study. You should go to college.
I'll study on my own.
If you get busy, it's going to be tough to protect Touka.
I can do it.
Ever since I came to this town...
... I've needed to protect so much more.

GRRUMMMBOLLLEEEEE
Your powers were weakened?
Grr.
What a coincidence.
GGRRRIP
LIFT

16th Night: Thorny Road (Part 6) END



Yozakura Quartet 3

Sakurashin Town Song

Music and lyrics by Hime Yarizakura

3

Old streets, main streets, we have lots of streets
The buildings here may be low
But you can see the sky more clearly
Tsun tsun dere tsun dere tsun tsun
Tsun tsun dere tsun dere tsun tsun
Tsun tsun dere tsun dere tsun tsun
Tsun tsun dere tsun dere tsun tsun

2

It's right off the freeway
The stores close at 9 P.M.
But sleeping early and waking up early is good for your health
Tsun tsun dere tsun dere tsun tsun
Tsun tsun dere tsun dere tsun tsun

1

It's to the west of Sangen-jaya
The express train doesn't stop here
But why don't you take your time?
Tsun tsun dere tsun dere tsun tsun
Tsun tsun dere tsun dere tsun tsun

ゴ
ゴ
ゴ RRUMMBBLLLEE
ゴ
ゴ
RRUMMBBLLLEE
Kyosuke.
Thanks.
WIPE
WIPE
Use this.
It's clean.

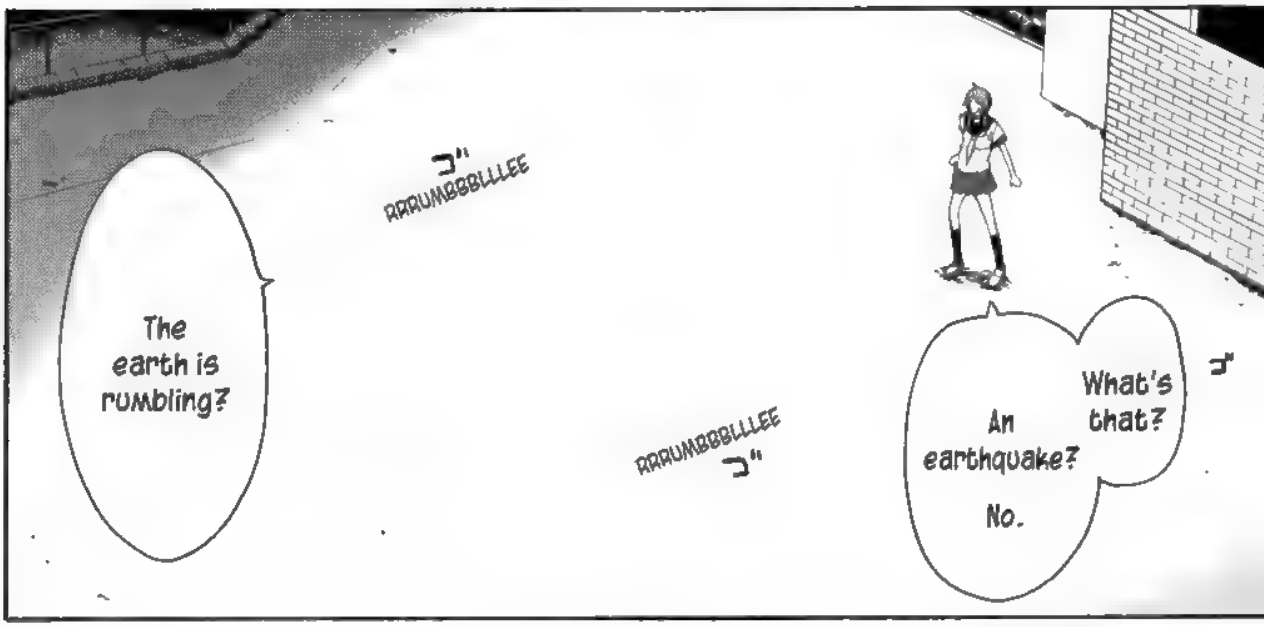
It's good!
MUNCH
MUNCH
Hime-sama.
What's going on with your pocket?!
Have a riceball.
I'm too hungry to fight.
FUMBLE
PLOP
You too.
Oh, thanks.
How many do you have?
PLOP

A mayor always needs to look good.
TIGHTEN
You should fix your collar.

GULP
I—I know!
PULL
ARG

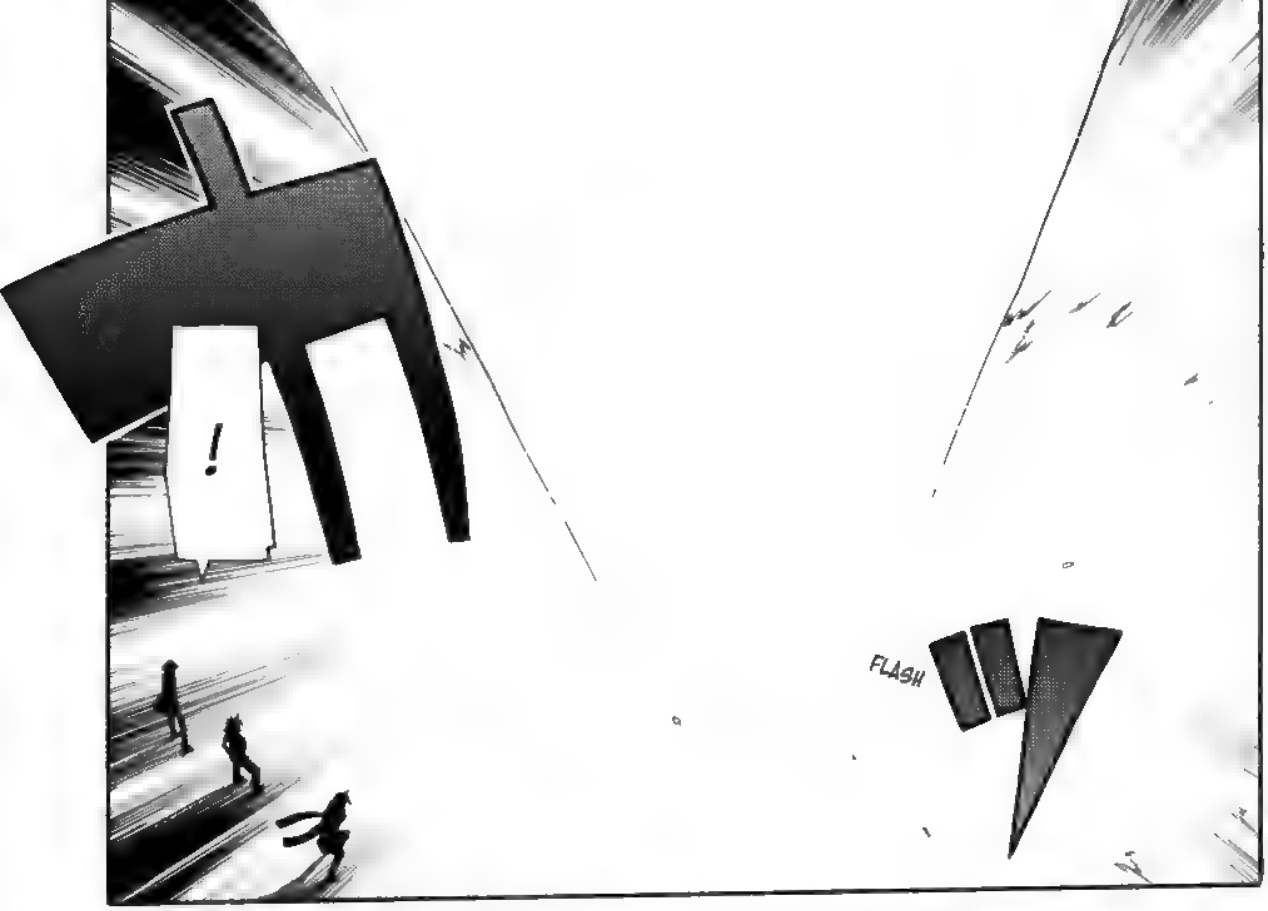
17th Night: Thorny Road (Part 7)

Because she got gunpowder on her clothes.

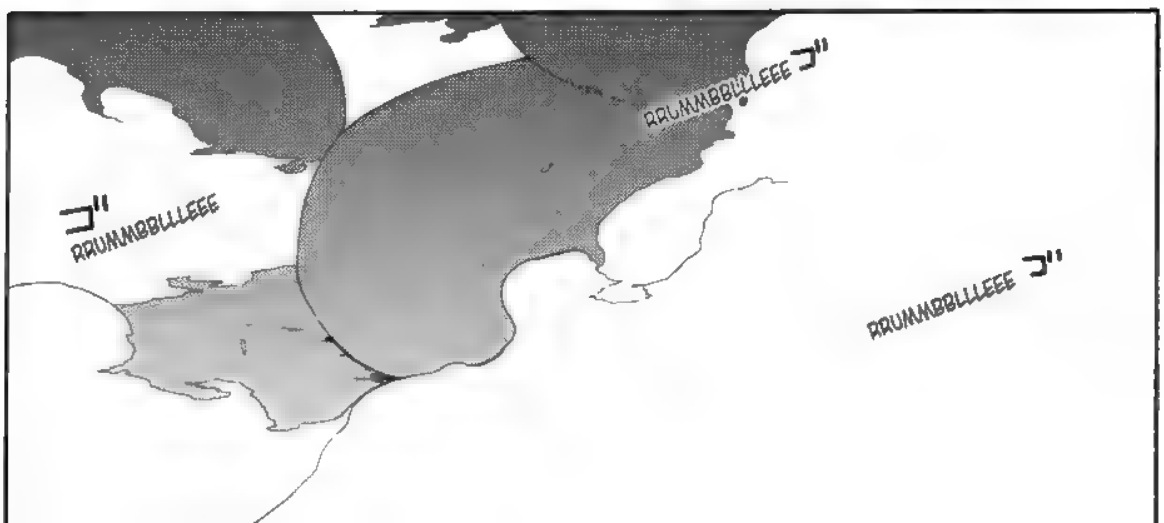


Well.
CRACK
But what to do?
Things are looking up for us now.
I think.
SQUEEZE
Heh heh.

Very well.
I guess you want more fun.
?!
CRACKLE
FLASH


!
FLASH

What?


ゴ" RRUMMBBLLLEEE
ゴ" RRUMMBBLLLEEE
ゴ" RRUMMBBLLLEEE

Hey, Akina!!
.....
No way.
He couldn't have. Or, did he?
RRRRUMMBBLLEEEE
RRRRUMMBBLLEEEE

He "dropped" all...
...those things?!
RRUMMBBLLE
RRUMMBBLLE
RRUMMBBLLE
RRUMMBBLLE

. . . !
But he can do it on purpose?!
How?!
I thought "falling" was an act of nature!!
Could this old man be...?!
Kyosuke!!
Oh well.
ZISH
Yes?

CRACK
How many can you take?
GRIP
Maybe three?
Fine.
I'll take four!!
WOOSH
I could take on at least one by tuning it.
No, stay back.

But...
Juri-san told me about the side effects of tuning.
You've done it too much already today.
Just leave the work to us.
That's right.
.....
SCRATCH
SCRATCH
What's wrong?
?
I can't be useless at a time like this.
I run an office to help demons, and now I can't do anything?
What are you saying?
.....

Demons and humans...
We live together peacefully. That means each one does what they can do best.
You heard Juri-san. "Do what you can."
And besides, Akina...
...you support us demons more than you know.
So just leave this to us.
He's right.
What you do best is make food or clean with a stupid grin on your face.
What?! What's that supposed to mean?!
GRUMPY
Leave my grin alone!
You know...

.....

...the...
...Food you make is good.
Really good.

Hime.
Huh?
When...

Sheesh.
It's unraveling.

Gargh?!
SQUEEZE

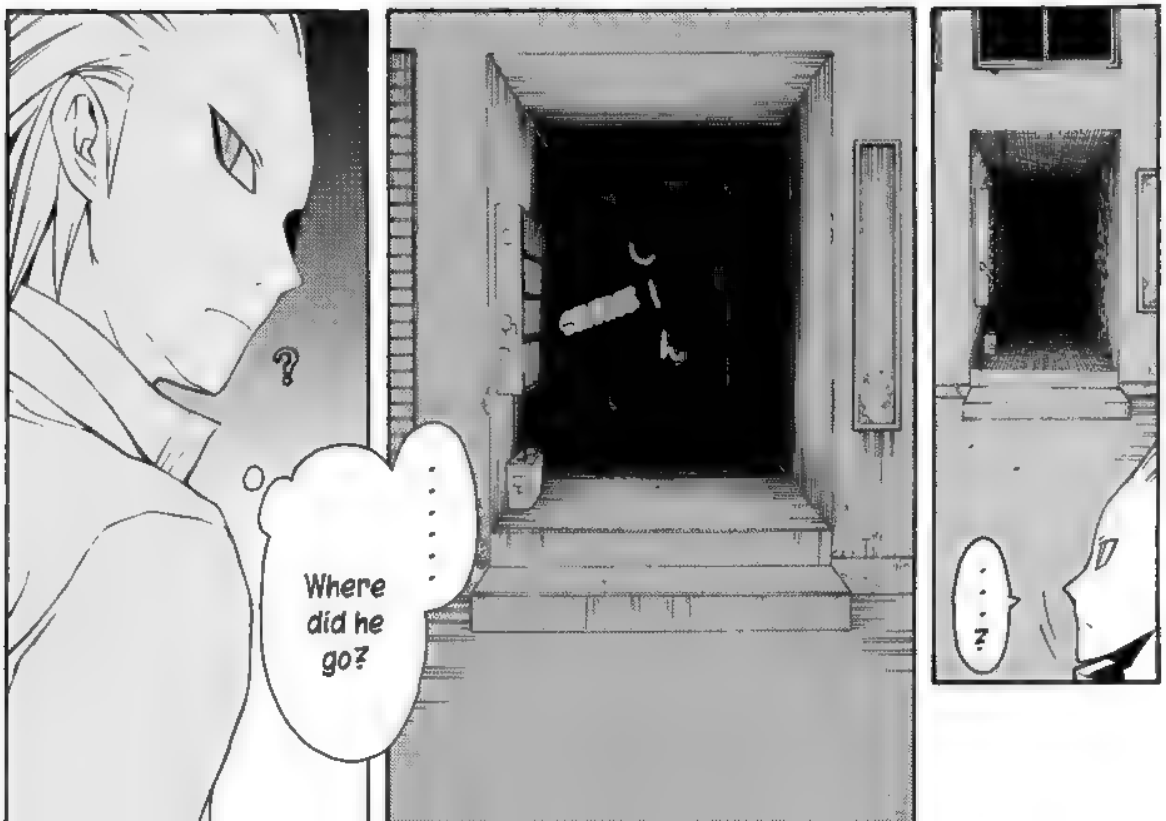
What is it?
Oh, sorry.
Your scarf was loose.
Real sorry.

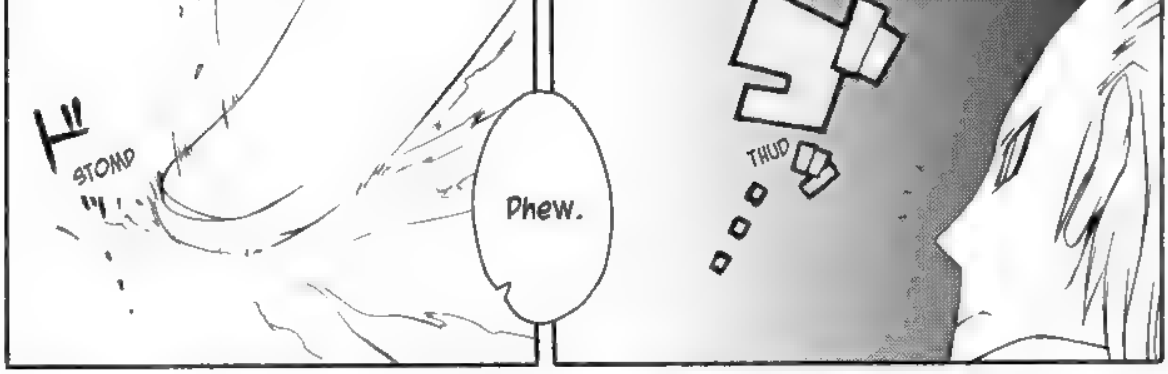
...
TUG
I'm leaving it to you.
So finish this up without getting hurt.
...every-thing's over,
I'll mend your scarf.
NIMBLE
NIMBLE
Are you really going to fix it?
I couldn't ask until now.
Huh? Of course.
You should've asked.
Okay.
FINISH
BEAMING
Then...

TA-DAH!!
...let's get this over with!!

Oh! If I use that...
But...
!
. . . . . .
...I'm sure I can do some-thing...
Even if I can't partici-pate...

ぬっ
RO-E
...how do I move it?
Whoa!
WOOSH


?
Where did he go?
.....
...?


STOMP
Phew.
THUD

FLASH!

ZISH
I could've taken care of one more.
Me either.
SWING

Then I shall give you more.
SST
RRRUMMMBBLLLEEE
!
Hey!

You're next.
Hee hee.
SWING

ゴ
RRUMMBBLLLEE
ゴ
RRUMMBBLLLEE
ゴ
RRUMMBBLLLEE
This never ends!
. . . !
GRIP
Ready?
SST
Could that old man be...?

WHACK
Go!!
CLICK
Huh?!
WOW!
Yeah! Feel the wrath of my mechanical arm!!
That's amaz-ing.
Good job!
What?!

KLUNK
KLUNK
Why didn't you two evacuate?!
Hmph! I would never!
TENZAKI POTTERY
I can't rely on you, that's why!!
You got a problem with that?!
Urgh.
Hey, stop that!
BONK
Ow!!
Foolish.
Hey.
Crush the store.
!
Stop! My master-pieces!
It's dangerous!

GRIP
DASH
Er!
KA-POW
.....!!
What are you doing?
Hurry up and crush it!
Oh.

ゴッ
POW
Rrgghh.
ゴッ
POW
ゴッ
POW
ゴッ
KA-POW
Urrrggghhh.
ゴッ
KA-POW
ゴッ
POW
ゴッ
POW
ゴッ
POW
Urgh.
You ask why?
You don't have to do this!
ゴッ
POW
ゴッ
POW
Why?
Why are you doing this?

What's wrong with the mayor...
...pro-tecting her own town?!
.....!!
POW
.....
POW
GASP
POW
RIP
POW
RIP
POW
POW
POW

I told you I'm protecting this town!
POW
POW
POW
POW
...that scarf important to you?!
Hey.
Wasn't...
...absolutely will lose!
Urggh.
I'm the mayor! Sorry, Akina, but if I have to choose between the town or this scarf...
POW
...this scarf...

OPEN
Shut up!!
Hey! Give that to me.
I can't stand it any-more!!
Er!
KA-BOOM
WOOSH
BEEP

Huh?
BURN
BURN
BURN
Whaaaaaaaat?

RRUMMBBLLEE
Huh?
TREMBLE
I Feel...
RRUMMBBLLEE

Because you sealed my memory...
RRRUMMMBBLE
...I forgot about this!!
Idiot!!
.....!
RRRUMMBBLE
?

What are you doing?!
I was trying to protect it.
You idiot!!

...inside of me.
!
...the power of the earth that runs underground. The earth force.
Heh!
This is...

Otherwise known as the dragon force!!
Your grand-mother left me to care for it! Take it!!
From my grand-mother...
.....!!
Loved by the town.
WHOOSH
RRUMMMBBLLEE
GRIP
GGGRIP
Be loved by the towns-people.
Take it?
Thank you, Grandma.
ZISH
I never forgot what you told me.

And loved by the dragon!!
CRACKLE

Get her.
Now!
This...
...is the real Dragon Spear.
ゴ
ゴ
ゴ
ゴ
RRRUMMBBLLEEE
RRRUMMBBLLEEE
RRUMMBBLE
VOOSH
Hime-sama.
Don't worry.
Sixth formation...
SWING!

"Kirin!!"
THUD
FINISH
Seventy-first Formation...
"Chidori!!"
THUD

Give it to them!!
The last formation!!
HMM.

Great
Fireworks!!

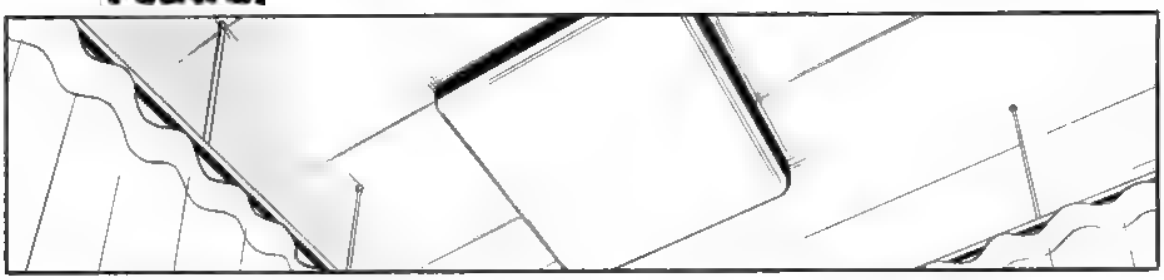
And they called it...
WOOSH
The gods answered the angered earth...
...and roared in the name of wrath.

...Dragon Spear, "Sakanade!!"
BOOM

This would be a horrible Dragon Spear formation!

You don't even need the spear.

One hundred ninth formation... "Warai Meshi."



ぱ
BLINK
ち
Huh?

よ、よかった
PHEW
Didn't you bring me here because you were worried?
Huh?

Oh, the owner's daughter.
It was really hard bringing you here! Sheesh!!

Where am I?
Are you awake?

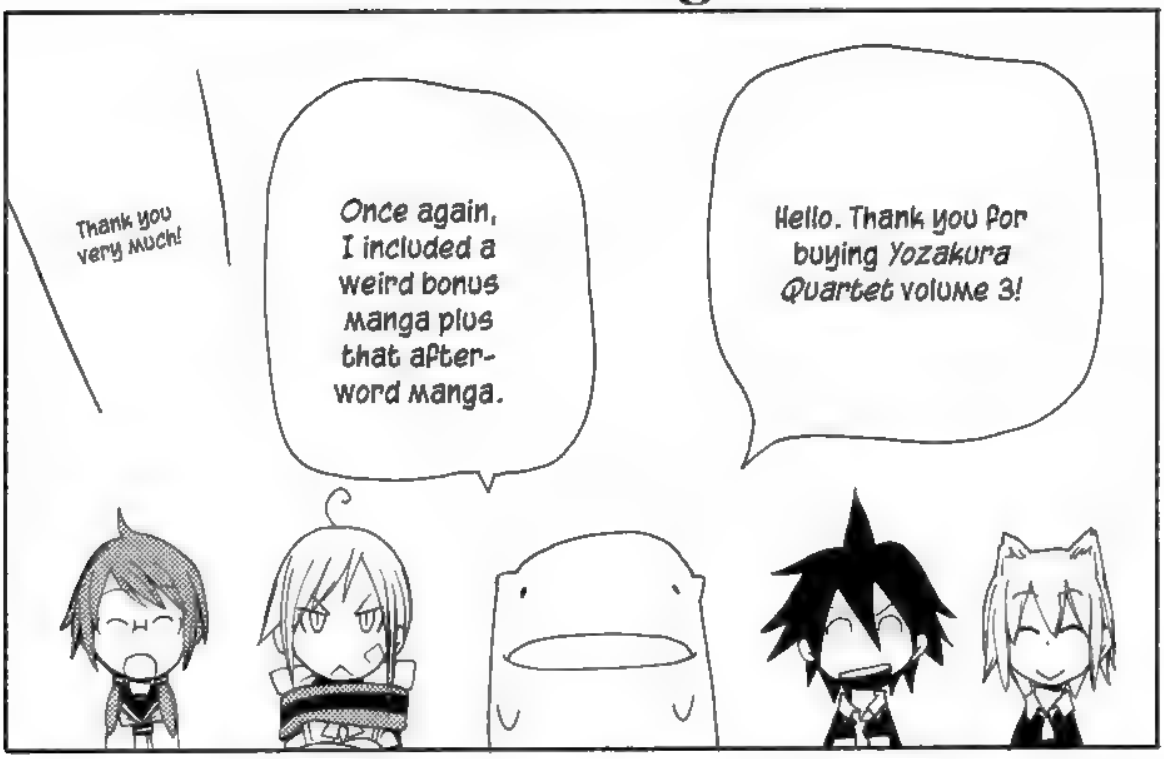
MUMBLE
MUMBLE
No, I wasn't worried. I mean...
BUMP

Aaaagh!!
Huh?
DROOL
Whoops.
I was hiding so that I could wait for students (girls). And then I got sleepy.
YAWN
YAWN
Just do your job!!
Why are you sleeping here?
You scared us!
Sorry, sorry.

No!!
Does that mean I can do anything to you?
BUMP
Sheesh! I got tired from carrying him all this way, so I'll sleep here!!
Huh?
Bump?
Huh?
Shoot, you found me.
Oh no.
ばーん
TA-DAH
Aaaaghh!!
There's someone else here!!
I was waiting, too.
They're so immature!!
SHOCK
Go ahead.
Maybe I can change the story like this...
WRITE
WRITE

First appearance July 2007 Monthly Sirius
2nd Anniversary Celebration Bonus!
The title of this was "Roach"

Bonus Manga


Hello. Thank you for buying Yozakura Quartet volume 3!
Once again, I included a weird bonus manga plus that afterword manga.
Thank you very much!

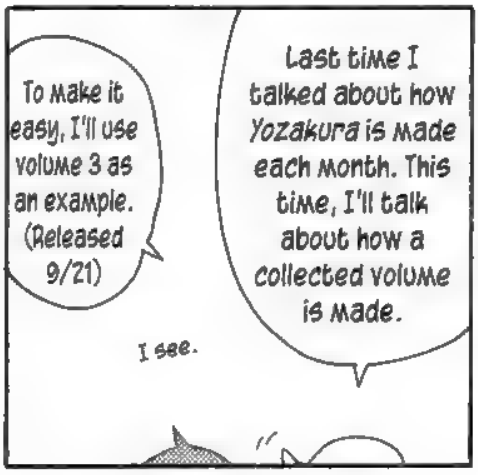
So, anyway...
Freeway

I was only kidding!
I worked hard in this volume!
What about me?!
Don't bite!

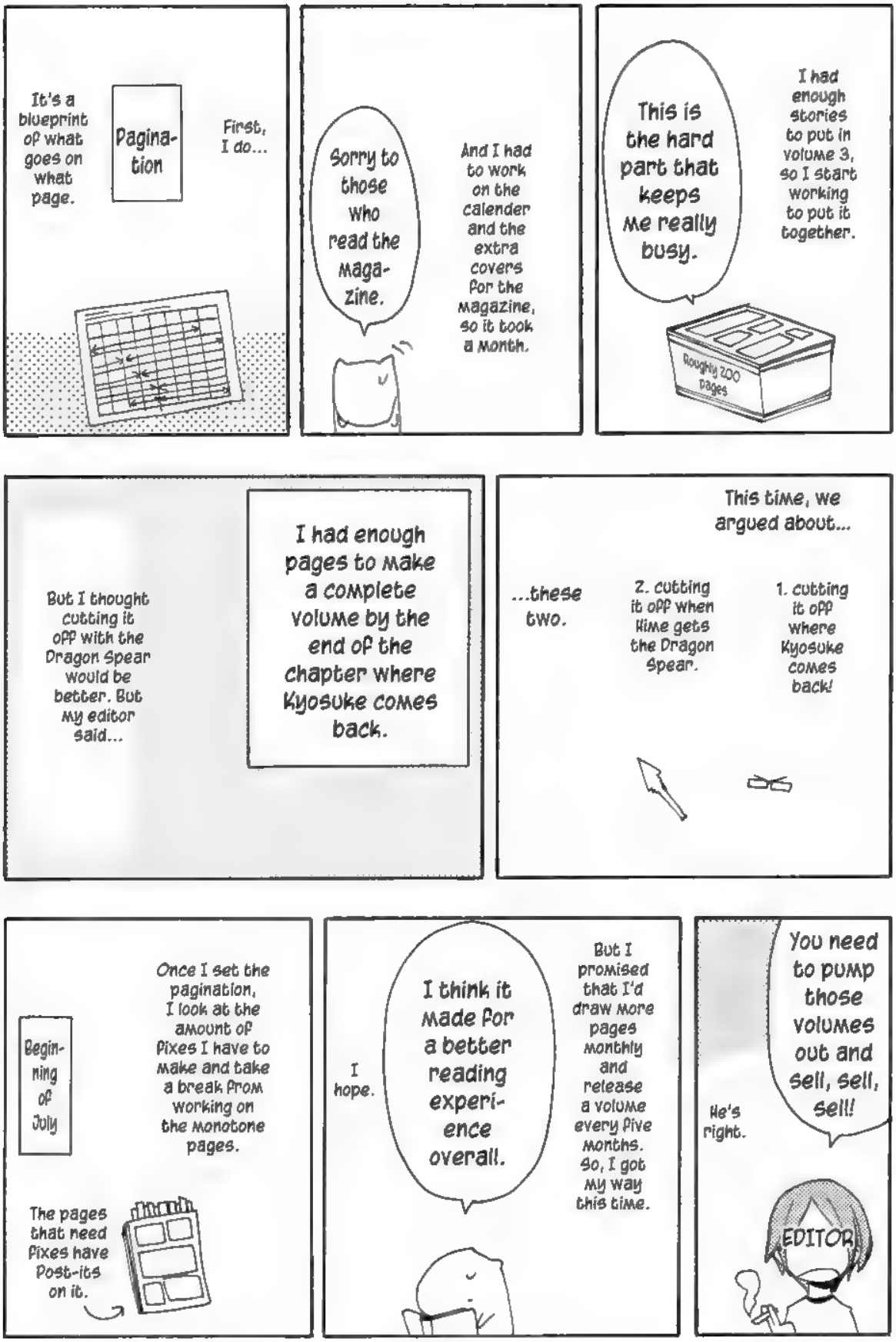
SHOCK
...Akina.
Huh? Me?

This time joining me is...
TH-THUMP
TH-THUMP

Take that!
Finished 17th Night
Mid-June


To make it easy, I'll use volume 3 as an example. (Released 9/21)
Last time I talked about how Yozakura is made each month. This time, I'll talk about how a collected volume is made.
I see.

Ramen House "Tom-chan Ramen"
Spicy Scallion Ramen (available only for dinner) It's really good.
Yeah.
It's volume 3.
SLURP
SLURP


It's a blueprint of what goes on what page.
Pagination
First, I do...
Sorry to those who read the magazine.
And I had to work on the calender and the extra covers for the magazine, so it took a month.
This is the hard part that keeps me really busy.
I had enough stories to put in volume 3, so I start working to put it together.
Roughly 200 pages
But I thought cutting it off with the Dragon Spear would be better. But my editor said...
I had enough pages to make a complete volume by the end of the chapter where Kyosuke comes back.
This time, we argued about...
...these two.
2. cutting it off when Rime gets the Dragon Spear.
1. cutting it off where Kyosuke comes back!
Beginning of July
Once I set the pagination, I look at the amount of Pixes I have to make and take a break from working on the monotone pages.
The pages that need Pixes have Post-its on it.
I hope.
I think it made for a better reading experience overall.
But I promised that I'd draw more pages monthly and release a volume every five months. So, I got my way this time.
He's right.
You need to pump those volumes out and sell, sell, sell!
EDITOR

...and finally started on the volume-making process for real.
Good luck.
SQUEEZE
After that, I worked on 18th Night until Mid-August...
I finished.
End of July
It's fun working on the cover.
As they were needed for advertising, I started working on the cover and the calendar.
I make fewer errors in this area now.
And I fix any text that was weird in the magazine.
"Why?" ←"How come?" and so forth.
The errors stand out at this point.
If the panels don't connect well, I'll fix an entire page.
I fix character positions, add screen tones, and add backgrounds.
Fixes
It's my book, so I like to play with it as much as I can.
But I don't get paid for this.
I see.
Because I used to work at an advertising agency.
So I know how.
Why are you working on it?
Hey.
I used to make flyers and such.
I work on the cover design at the same time.
I forgot.
De-sign?

It's better than the usual manga I have to do. But it's hard to add an extra ten pages while I'm working on the main manga every month.

Millimeter tip pen—makes the most of it

What? This is difficult?!

...is the bonus manga and the afterword manga.

All the text is written by hand.

What's really difficult...

?

Bonus manga

A few days later

RRRING

Mid-September

I'll finish it somehow.

Take that!

Of course, I start on 19th Night without a break.

That's tough.

End of August

Then I put the manga together and turn it in.

カコン

Finally!

The volume is done!!

I got a copy!

YEAH!

Good job!

EDITOR

Around September 18th

BBQ Place

Did you bring it?

EXCITED

Yeah.

EDITOR

FUMBLE FUMBLE

EDITOR

I'll meet you at the BBQ place.

Okay.

By the way, to celebrate volume 3...
Well, I guess it's not worth polishing.
I hardly get a break.
So that's how a volume is made. I always write this, but please forgive any errors you see in this afterword manga.
That was a dream?!
That's what should happen.
Because I'm still writing this.
BLUNTLY
You need to plan more.
Please order it if you can.
And I'll be releasing a calendar. The deadline for this is coming up soon.
Information on the website.
That's too soon, isn't it?
It's going to be on September 30th. Details are on the Sirius website!
Sorry to those reading this after the date.
www.sirius.kodansha.co.jp
Seriously?!
I'm doing a book signing!
First!
...I have a few announcements!
Bye-bye!
I hope to see you in the next volume!
I'm tired.
The last parts were rushed. I'll see you later!
Now...
I'm wearing a Chinese outfit!
And in the November issue of Sirius, I'll have an extra cover as a bonus.
Please check it out!
It's coming up soon!
She changed!

I take in all of the criticism, advice, etc.
Thank you
I've looked at most of them.
I can say I looked at 99% of them.
That's too much!
I wrote in the previous volume that I was going to look at reviews on the Internet.
But I still have more pages, huh?
Huh?
EDITOR
PUNK'D
"I saw volume 2 was out, but I didn't buy it because volume 1 was so boring." (summarized)
Huh? Let me see...
Hey, it looks like you get this comment a lot.
I can't leave comments. But I really do appreciate it.
That's not a good idea!
WHAT?!
...I was originally going to bring them all out in the first chapter.
WHACK
Well...
I guess most people didn't like that you had too many characters popping up all at once.
Actually...
Umm. Cheer up!!
Sob.
That's all I can think to say!
Blanket
"Volume 2 had too many characters and confused me. I'm not buying it anymore."

That feeling.
You build a chronology based on whatever you learn about the past from these people as you meet them.
That feeling.
Your mind doesn't process all the information that these people bring.
That feeling.
Oh, all these people spent every day together before I came here.
For example, when you transfer to a new school...
That's my top priority.
I will appeal to new readers, but I'm working hard so that you readers who've stayed with me can enjoy this until the end.
Like you.
But there are still people who read this!
Well, that and your lack of skills.
But I guess it was a bad idea.
As this is a story about a town with a lot of things that already happened, I thought presenting it like that would be better.
Please read volume 4, too! See you!
Thank you to my assistants Amagi-san, Anri-san, Oishi-san, Kato-san, and my editor Kimura-san, etc., and thank you to all the readers!
My friend told me that he tells others to be patient until the third volume. (I'm not sure how to take that).
So, it's really good-bye for now.
Bye!
I bet you there are more pages.
If you see anything that you can praise, please do so.
So please give me your comments.
On your blogs or by e-mail.
He's not good at taking criticism.

It's
really
over!

About the Author

Suzuhito Yasuda's cute and colorful character designs, sharp linework, and unique design talents have made him a popular artist in the fields of both manga and novel illustration. He has illustrated such Japanese novels as *Kamisama Kazoku*, *Scarlet Sword*, and *Maid Machinegun*. He has also worked on the manga series *Pinky-Comic* and *Ebony & Ivory*; *Yozakura Quartet* is his latest work.

His Preferred Tools:
PowerMAC G4 933Mhz
Apple studio display 17 TFT

PowerMAC G4 Cube
Apple Studio Display 17 CRT

Sony VAIO Notebook PCG542B

Translation Notes

Japanese is a tricky language for most Westerners, and translation is often more an art than a science. For your edification and reading pleasure, here are notes on some of the places where we could have gone in a different direction, or where a Japanese cultural reference is used.

Sakura

Sakura is the Japanese term for cherry blossoms. *Yozakura* in the title refers to *sakura* at night, or viewing *sakura* at night

Kirin, page 36

Kirin is a comedic duo featuring Akira Kawashima and Hiroshi Tamura. Although their first impressions of each other weren't great, they eventually became good friends and formed their group.

Uchi-P, page 36

Uchi-P is an abbreviated term for *Uchimura Produce*, a TV show featuring comedians doing comedy sketches.

Azu-chan, page 36

Azu-chan is a gravure idol (a Japanese model who primarily poses in bikinis and other provocative clothing for magazine spreads). Her real name is Azusa Yamamoto, but she is known as Azu chan.

Akiyuki Nosaka, page 66

Akiyuki Nosaka is a Japanese novelist, singer, and politician. He is a former member of the Diet. He also wrote the novel *The Grave of the Fireflies*, a story about a brother and sister trying to survive the war on their own.

Nasu Nakanishi, page 66

Nasu Nakanishi is a comedic duo comprised of Shigeki Nakanishi and Akiyuki Nasu. They are cousins.

Tet-chan, page 66

Tet-chan refers to Tetsuro Degawa, a Japanese comedian and actor. He is known more as a comedian but likes to call himself a "comedic actor." He has a husky voice that is very distinctive.

Hidagyu, page 83

Hidagyu is clearly a fictional character in the world of *Yozakura Quartet*. The name Hidagyu refers to Japanese beef from cattle raised in Hida, a city in the Gifu prefecture. It's fatty and known to be expensive.

Kazuyoshi Nakamura, page 102

Kazuyoshi Nakamura is a musician. Originally inspired by Vincent van Gogh and Marc Chagall, he was pursuing a career in art until he turned fifteen years old. After that, he switched to music to express himself. His works didn't catch on right away, and he had been considering suicide if he didn't succeed.

Dayan, page 102

Dayan is a comedic duo featuring Yusuke Nishizawa and Atsuhiro Tsuda. They were classmates in junior high school. Their group name comes from their foreign English teacher.

Parachute Troop, page 102

Pepe Yano and Yuu Saito comprise the comedic duo Parachute Troop. Their participation in Uchi-P made them popular.

Kamaitachi, page 134

Kamaitachi is a comedic duo featuring Kenji Yamauchi and Ryuichi Hamaie. In their shorter routines, they would end each joke with Yamauchi hitting a gong.

Sekiya, page 134

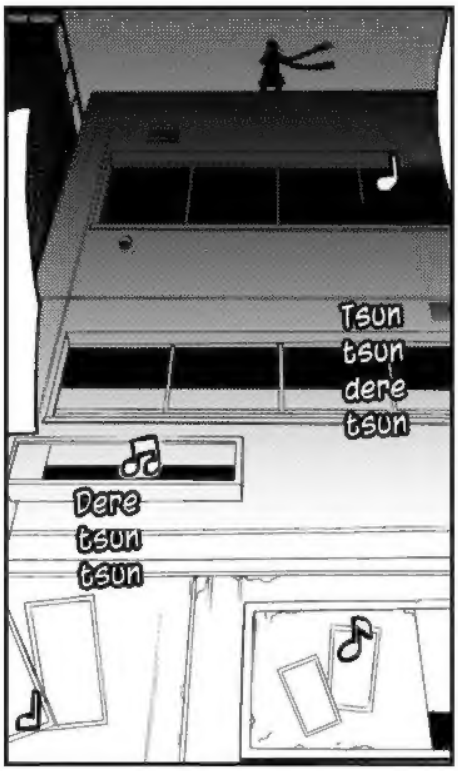
Sekiya refers to Tsukasa Sekiya, one of the assistant directors on the show.

Bento, page 141

Bento means a boxed lunch. Part of the fun of riding a bullet train is eating a station *bento*. There are many kinds of *bento*, and some are available only in specific regions. You can buy them on the train (either in a specific car or a vendor will come by and sell them to you), but there's more variety at the station.

Sangen-jaya, page 153

Sangen-jaya is a town in Tokyo's Setagaya district. It's a popular place to live because of its convenient location.



Tsundere, page 153

Hime is playing the town song "Tsundere," which she was teaching to the kids in volume 1. *Tsundere* is a term for a specific character trait, describing a person who is standoffish or aloof but can become loveable and adorable in different situations. This term first started in Japanese dating simulation games, then moved on to anime and manga, but is now widely used in mass media.

Dragon Spear Formations, page 211

The Dragon Spear Formations introduced in this volume are mostly names of comedic duos introduced in the previous volumes. In *Warai Meshi*, one of the comedians has a mustache similar to the one Hime is putting on.

Weird Text and "Why," page 219

The change depicted here is between two different choices of character usage, both of which translate to "why." As this would not carry over in English, the closest comparison is between "how come" and "why." They have similar definitions and can be used interchangeably, but sometimes one sounds awkward and weird.